Algeria suspicious of NATO dialogue

TUNIS (R) — Algeria on Saturday expressed suspicion over its exclusion from a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) initiative to open dialogue next week with Israel and four North initiative to open dialogue next week with Israel and four North initiative to open dialogue next week with Israel and four North African countries on threats to stability in the Mediterranean. NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said on Friday he would hold talks with the ambassadors of Israel, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in Brussels on Feb. 24 on the threats of extremism and violence to the area's stability. Mr. Claes' invitation, which was accepted by the five countries, did not include Algeria, where the army-backed covernment is now virtually fighting a civil war with armed Muslim militants. NATO sources have said the alliance did not want to be seen taking the government's side against its foes. The Algerian news agency APS, in the first official comment on NATO's initiative, said in a commentary the absence of Algeria from the talks "appears to contain ingredients for interference in a sovereign state's internal affairs without excluding, furthermore, possible intimidating intentions.

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Iran denies role in Iraq oii sales

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has denied any role in helping Iraq export oil in violation of U.N. sanctions, the Iranian news agency IRNA said nn Saturday. Iran's United Natinns mission issued a statement on Friday deoying a "fabricated" New York Times report nn Thursday that said Iraq had devised a secret system to export crude oil and refined products tn neighbours Turkey and Iran. The Iranian mission described the report as "unjust attempts by certain circles, mainly in the United States, to implicate ... Iran, without any supporting evidence, in the alleged smuggling of the Iraqi oil and refined pro-ducts," IRNA reported.

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Ciinton: No decision on Moscow visit

WASHINGTON (AFP) President Bill Clinton insisted Saturday that he has made no decision nn an invitation to Moscow on May 8 following reports that he would not an because of heavy-handed Russian use of force in Chechenya. Russian President Boris Yeltsin had invited Mr. Clinton for the 50tb anniversary celebration of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II but a senior U.S. official said Friday that Mr. Clinton would postpone any visit to Moscow until combat in the break-away Russian republic ended. Mr. Clinton declined to say Saturday if Chechenya was a consideration. "I want to make very clear we have made no decision about the May schedule," the president said at a morning photo session. "There are lots of issues involved because there are lots of 50th anniversary events celebrating the end of World War II. But we literally have not had a meeting on

Balladur suffers new dips in popularity

PARIS (AFP) - The popu-

larity of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur dipped sharply in a new poll released here Saturday, two months ahead of a presidential election in which he is the leading candidate. The poll, for the Sunday newspaper Journal du Dimanebe, gave Mr. Balladur a 46 per cent popularity rating, 10 points down on bis 55 per cent showing last month. Dissatisfaction with Mr. Balladur also rose, to 48 per cent from last month's 41 per cent. Polisters IFOP carried out the survey from Feb. 9 to 16, questioning 1,886 people throughout the country. The poll confirms recent findings that Mr. Balladur, seen as a runaway winner at the start of the year, has been slipping in public esteem. The three main market research companies BVA. IFOP and SOFRES, published surveys last Tuesday that gave him only a narrow lead against his nearest rivals in the first round of voting on April 23, though he was still seen as winning the May 7 second round comfortably.

Paris rally protests Algeria killing

PARIS (AFP) - Several hundred demonstrators protested in Paris Saturday against anti-feminist violence in Algeria after the killing of a prominent women's leader by suspected Islamie fundamentalists. The 300 demonstrators, mainly Algerians who have fled their country after the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, were protesting against the killing of Nahila Djahnine last Wednesday. The protestors, divided among those who support and those who oppose talks with fundamentalists to end the conflict, also called for the repeal of family law introduced by the then one-party regime in 1984. Unknown gunmen shot Ms. Djahnine, 35, dead in the city of Tizi Ouzou, 110 kilometres east of Algiers (see page 12).

es rit

PNA condemns anti-Israel King attacks, urges expansion of self-rule to W. Bank

GAZA CITY (AP) — The Palestinian self-rule government condemned Palestinian militants' attacks on Israelis in a statement early Saturday, but also warned peace was "in real danger" unless Israel extended autonomy to the West Bank.

"We condemn and reject all these attacks that are aimed against the interests of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples," said the statement, issued after Palestine National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat convened his ministers late Friday to report on the peace talks. Mr. Arafat left Saturday for Paris, where he was expected to meet with

mon Peres. The statement affirmed the Palestinians' full commitment to the talks but also expressed "deep sorrow at the way

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

the peace process is going. The Palestinians are upset at delays in extending the nine-month-old Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the West Bank and at the closure imposed nn the Palestinian areas after a Jan. 22 attack in which 21 Israelis died in central Israel. Since October, 56 Israelis have died in attacks claimed **Arafat pursues talks** with Peres in Paris

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shiman Peres were to hold talks here late Saturday nn the sidelines of a privately-organised Middle East peace symposium, sources said.

Aides to Mr. Arafat said the meeting would probably take place around midnight (2300 GMT).

A Palestinian official in Gaza said earlier Mr. Peres had asked Mr. Arafat to meet him to belp save the deadlocked peace talks. Mr. Peres meanwhile thanked Egypt in a written

statement published Saturday for trying to belp "Israel and the Palestinians overcome their difficulties in current negotiations. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres were due to meet in a Paris

hotel following a dinner hosted by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. They were expected to continue discussing issues to do

with Israel's reopening its borders last Sunday to thousands of Palestinian workers living in Gaza. Mr. Peres was due to leave the French capital late

Saturday after the talks with Mr. Arafat.

by militants opposed to the

peace process. Although the closure was eased after a meeting Thors-day between Mr. Arafat, Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yltzhak Rahin, tens of thousands of Palestinians remain cut off from jobs in

The statement denounced the closure as well as Israel's settlement activity around Jerusalem, detention of Palestinian prisoners and delays in implementing the autonomy accord. "All this bas put the peace

(Continued on page 7) U.S. to speed up write-off of remainder of Jordan's debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan prospect of having a Middle East region free of nuclear agreement on speeding up the process of writing off Jordan's \$488 million in debts to the U.S., Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

said nn Saturday. Mr. Kabariti, who returned to Amman Saturday after a several-day visit to the U.S., said it was agreed that the U.S. administration would present a proposal to Congress to write off the remainder of Jurdan's debts this fiscal year instead of writing them off during the 1995-96 period as agreed with the American administration.

Mr. Kabariti participated in a meeting in Washington with the foreign ministers of the U.S., Egypt, Israel, Jordan as well as the director of the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

The meeting, chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, discussed means of belping the stalled Palestinian-Israeli negotiations move forward and the

weapons.

The minister said the international community should help the Palestinian people economically in order to hreak the cycle of vinlence.
"To be able to break the

cycle of violence, the international community should also attempt to break the siege imposed on the Palestinian people, leading to starving them and might lead to what can be described as mass economic sanctinns," the minister told Jordan Televi-

He said Arab countries would discuss the issue of signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) within the framework of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement to reach a unified stand on the issue before it is put to discussion Jordan, be said, is like

at a March 17 meeting. other Arab countries. "It cannot feel secure while threatened by nuclear arsen-



Abdul Karim Kabarati als and reactors on its borders and while there is no international monitoring of them." Mr. Kabariti said in reference to Israel's nuclear program-

The issue is not signing the NPT. Most of the Arab countries, including Jordan and Egypt, signed the treaty in 1968, and pressuring Israel

(Continued on page 7)

Itakes part in Paris dialogue

ment from the Internation Palace said.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) symposium is beld under the patronage of Mr. Balladur It is designed to highlight the European role in promoting the peace talks and more specifically, France's initiative in securing a peaceful Middle East re-

During the three-day long symposinm, particiimportant issues pertaining to the peace process including the future of Jerusalem. minorities and refugees the future of new Israeli settlements, economic cooperation and the reginn's security require-

Attending the sympo-sium to take part in these discussions on behalf of Jordan is a delegation headed by Minister of Health Aref Batayneh. Also attending to speak or the issue of water and arms control respectively are Dr. Munther Haddadin, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber and Dr. Abdullah Toukan.

The symposium will feature workshops for discussions of the different topics on the agenda. Participating in the discussion groups are internationally renowned journalists, political advisors, historians and government officials. President Hosni Mubarak, President Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzbak Rabin, King Hassan II, Foreign Minister Amr Musa of Egypt and Foreign Minister Shunon Peres of Israel will also be delivering statements at the conference. It is organised by the French Jewish Radio Sha-

the international sympothe Peace Process," a state-

pants will discuss the most

lom with help from France's TF1 television channel and Al Ahram.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday delivered a live message and engaged in a dialogue with French Prime Minister Edouard Ballador at the opening ceremony ni sium held in Paris entitled: 'The Fnture of the Mediterranean Area After al Press Office of the Royal

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that Jordan had opted for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace for the benefit of the peoples in the Middle East region and their future gen-

Speaking during a meeting at the Royal Court with the visiting Australian trade minister, Bob McMullan, the King said it was important for the future generation to live

McMullan (Petra photo)

in security and stability and enjoy free, secure and dignified life.

His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Australian Trade Minister Bob

King meets Australian minister.

reaffirms approach to peace

Mr. McMullan conveyed to the King greetings from the. Australian prime ministerand government and their appreciation of his sincere efforts for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle.

Mr! McMullan expressed the Australian government's appreciation of the King's leadership and bis enHe said Australia will provide Jordan with all possible. assistance towards progress in various fields.

He said Australia was keen on bolstering economic and trade relations with Jordan. Present at the audience were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragbeh and Australia's Ambassador to Jordan Jonathan Sheppard (see earlier story on page 3).

Taliban demand snags U.N.plan

KABUL (Agencies) - The U.N. peace plan for Afghanistan was under threat Saturday as the Islamic armed movement that has taken the country by storm took position outside the city and demanded control of security in Kabul before join-

ing the process.
U.N. envoy Mabmoud
Mestiri said after a 90-minute meeting with the Talibans movement at nearby Charasyab that "they insist on a neutral security force before the transfer of power takes place" to a proposed 30-

member council. Mnllah Borjan, a Taliban commander based in Charasyah, the former headquarters of ex-Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction, told AFP the neutral security force in Kabul should be the Talibans. He said the long-delayed transfer of power from President Burhannddin Rabhani to the body "cannot take place" with rival forces holding different parts of Kabul. The council, to be domin-

ated by neutral figures, is at the core of the U.N. plan to hring peace to this country, wracked by a factional war which has left more than 20,000 people dead since the communist regime fell in April 1992. The student-led Talibans.

who bave grown to an esti-mated 25,000 fighters, this week overran the base of Mr. Hekmatyar, arch rival of Mr. Rabbani. Mr. Hekmatyar bas

fled to an outlying town. Ahmad Shah Masoud, the enforcer of Mr. Rabbani's

Jamiat-e-Islami forces, con-

while rival Abdul Ali Mazari, who heads the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahadat faction; still holds sway in parts of the western On Saturday the Talibans were just 15 kilometres from

central Kabul - and a mere

trols 90 per cent of Kabul,

100 metres away from Mr. Masoud's frontline fighters, who were backed by several Russian-made battle-tanks. There has been no shooting yet between the two sides but on Friday a Taliban fight-

er was wounded by an antipersonnel mine and hospital-, ised in Kabul.

The Talibans have branded the rivals in Kabul as "criminals" because of their factional fighting, and bave vowed to impose strict Isla-

(Continued on page 7)

Peres: Israel, Egypt can settle NPT row

PARIS (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Saturday be believed Egypt and Israel could resolve a row over Israel's alleged nuclear arsen-

"Yes, we have difficulties but we shall overcome them. I think we have overcome the problems we had with our Egyptian friends," be told mr. Peres, speaking to reporters outside the Paris

hotel where be is staying during a conference on the future of the Mediterranean region, was referring to bis meeting on Friday night with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

The Israeli foreign minister did not say outright that the controversy over Israel's refusal to open its nuclear faci-lities to international inspection bad been resolved.

In a statement distributed earlier hy aides, be said: "It is only natural that differences of opinion exist even among friends hut our meeting proved that it is possible to solve them and to discuss all outstanding problems, including the nuclear issue, in a spirit of mutual respect and

reconciliation." Egypt is lobbying other Arab states not to sign an extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

unless Israel agrees to sign. Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear warheads, says it will not sign until it is satisfied that countries like Iran, Iraq and Libya do not pose a threat to it. The NPT comes up for extension in April and is ex-

pected to be the main issue at an Arab League ministerial meeting in Cairo in March. The row has soured relations between Egypt and Israel, which signed a peace treaty in 1979.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of attacking his country by telling the Israeli parliament Cairo was adopting a confrontational stand. But Mr. Peres said he

assured Mr. Musa that "contrary to out of context reports, Prime Minister Rabin continues to hold President Muharak and Foreign Minister Musa in the highest esteem and we remain fully convinced of the need for Egypt to continue as a key actor in the peace process for the sake of ensuring its suc-

Mr. Musa said on Friday that Cairo would continue to demand that Israel sign the NPT, but said Egypt's stance did not affect the peace deal between the two countries. The U.S. acting State De-

partment spokeswoman, Christine Shelly, said Friday Washington does not believe that the extension of the NPT should be linked either to the accession of other states to the treaty or to a specific time frame for achieving broadly supported U.S. oonproliferation goals in the Middle East.

In response to questions about Egypt's objection to extending the treaty as long as Israel is nnt a party to it, Ms. Shelly also noted, "Our position on the NPT continues to remain what we've articulated before, which is universal adherence to the NPT. We continue to strongly support indefinite and unconditional extension.

We believe that an NPT of unlimited duration is in the interests of the entire Middle East and will better attract the adherence of states that are still outside the regime than would a treaty that just had a limited future.

"We don't believe that NPT extension should be linked to whether other states join to the treaty or to a specific time frame for achieving our hroadly supported non-proliferation goals in the Middle East,"

she said. Ms. Shelly said the United States has "certainly heard"

nations on the issue, but she emphasised "we don't sup-port the point of linkage." "We certainly embrace the

hope and the aspiration that the Middle East, one day, through achieving tangible results through the peace process, can be free from all weapons of mass destructinn," the acting spokes-wnman said. "I don't think there's any difference of view on that.

"But again, we still continue to believe that indefinite extension is very, very important and it remains one of our top foreign policy and national security objectives. and we'll certainly continue to pursue that," she said.

Asked about Egypt's com-plaints about criticism in the recent State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Ms. Shelly pointed out that "promoting respect for human rights remains an integral part of our foreign policy.

The annual human rights report "is very carefully prepared and is as balanced as we can make it," the acting spokesman said, "and we have an active and ongoing dialogue with the government of Egypt on the full range of issues which are raised in the report."



Due to the overwhelming demand, JMTS will now extend the pre-registration period for the cellular services for

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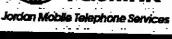
Muhala

Shmelsani / Grindlays Bank Center **Gardens Street**

Jabal Amman / inside Intercontinental Hotel



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tions city. We thought Kis-mayu was the place to go to

and we are ready to help the people bere so long as they do not shoot at us," a U.S. engineer with the firm said.

Morris Supplies, which catered for 30,000 U.N. civi-

lians and peacekeepers in

Somalia, bopes to go into

business with Somalis, reviv-

ing Kismayu's looted fish fac-tories and setting up new

Five aid agencies — UN-ICEF, WFP, World Concern.
Muslim Aid Agency, and
MSF — have returned to
Kismayu. All are going about
their business without militia

protection that is a must in

Mogadishu. The local police

But relief workers say Kis-

The local police, credited

with enforcing peace in Kismayu and surrounding villages and of reconciling clans dotted around the region, will be without their \$200 per month salaries once the U.N.

Operation in Somalia (UN-

OSOM) leaves in early

It is not clear who will take

over the role of paying their wages and officials worry this

may create a vacuum and

provoke a return to clan bos-

"This is something that worries me a great deal. My

question is who will pay my men after UNOSOM de-

parts. I still bave found no

answer," Col. Garasi

March.

mayu's peace may be tempor-

protect their workers.

KISMAYU, Somalia (R) — An intricate clan alliance, not the gun, is largely responsible for peace in this once anarchic Somali port city where famine and warfare killed tens of thousands of people.

Kismayu was the prize in a two-year war between militias of General Mohammad Said Hersi "Morgan" and Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, but has enjoyed 10 months of calm under a clan coalition controlled by Gen. Morgan.

Unlike the capital Mogadishu there are no U.N. peacekeepers here — the last Indian contingent left the city in December.

And also unlike Moga-dishu, where tension is rising because of the departure this month of the "Blue Helmets," Kismayu residents are again cultivating their fields. Few guns are visible on Kismayu's pot-holed streets and the "technical" hattlewagons that terrorise Mogadishu are rare.

Kismayu is calm. Markets buzz with noise and Somali music. U.N.-funded policemen patrol the town and arrest criminals

There has been no war here since the U.N. troops left and there shall be no war in the future because the people are fed up of fighting," said Colonel Ahmad Garasi, commander of Kismayu's police force.

Clan elders are also keen to maintain the peace that is prevailing, they are keen to see this city rehulld itself as the economic engine of Somalia that it once was,'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will not allow its Muslims to make

the pilgrimage to Mecca this

year if there is a continued

shortage of foreign exchange

caused by U.N. sanctions,

President Saddam Hussein

They carried an emotional

s of good in the world"

appeal to "Islamic states and

to urge Saudi Arabia,

Bahrain and the United Arab

Emirates to release \$25 mi-

lion of Iraqi assets to cover

the expenses of the pilgrim-

Without the funds "the Ira-

qi authorities will be unable

to process applications for

the pilgrimage to holy lands (Saudi Arabia)," the cahinet

Iraqi assets held by the

three countries hecause of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis

amounted to more than \$700

The newspapers said the

ban would apply to all Iraqis.

Is would be the first time that

Iraq has barred pilgrimage to

Mecca for purely economic

reasons and the newspapers

blamed this on the punitive

U.N. trade sanctions im-

posed on Iraq for its 1990

Religious Affairs Ministry

bas so far made no arrange-

ments for this year's Haj.

Iraq's Endowments and

The cahinet said processing

Haj applications without the

required funds would put a

strain on foreign currency re-

serves and result in "further

invasion of Kuwait_

million, it added.

chaired a cabinet meeting this

week on the issue, the news-

state newspapers reported.

Col. Garasi added.

Gen. Jess, the main threat to peace here, is a broken man without money and arms to keep his militia intact. He has retreated to Mogadishu where the lives on handonts from bis mentor, warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed. More than 300,000 Somalis

abandoned their homes in Kismayu and fled to neigh-bouring Kenya after the 1991 overthrow of soldier-dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. But encouraged by the peace here they are returning at a rate of a week in an operation coordinated by the U.N. High Commissioner for Re-fugees (UNHCR).

They are taking advan-tage of the peace that is

said Meinie Nicolai, a nurse with the charity Mede-cins Sans Frontieres-Belgium

"Most of these are urban middle class who want to return to Mogadisbu but can't until the city calms. Their second choice is Kismayu," she added.

Kismayu is the country's second largest port and capital of the southern farmlands. Boasting some of the country's most fertile land, it stands out as Somalia's main

economic hope.

The Australian catering giant Morris Supplies, fearful of violence that threatens to engulf Mogadisbu after the U.N. pnllout, is setting up base at what is duhbed as "Hamhurger Hill" on a spit that forms Kismayu's har-

"We had to leave Moga-

for lack of foreign exchange

Americans return with non-lethal arsenal

WASHINGTON (AFP) Nine months after their lessthan-glorious departure from Somalia, U.S. soldiers are returning to the battered east African state to protect with-drawing U.N. troops. This time they are taking few

The 7,200 U.S. soldiers mustered for next month's launch of Operation United Shield will bave more than conventional arms to defend themselves. They will bave state-of-the-art, non-lethal gear to help control unruly

The Pentagon wants particularly to avoid a repeat of the confrontation between Pakistani U.N. soldiers and a crowd of Somalians shortly after the American pullout last May.

At that time, rock throwing women and chil-dren had obstructed U.N. troops chasing some snipers and a firefight broke out, leaving 24 Pakistanis and 20

Somali civilians dead.
About \$7,000 U.N. soldiers, mostly Egyptians, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis are currently in Somalia, where the U.S.-led troops first waded asbore in December 1992 to feed a starving population amid fierce factional fighting.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 soldiers, most of them Pakistanis are due to leave Mogadishu next month in a pullout aided by U.S. forces, includ-ing 3,000 Marines on four Iraq may ban people from Haj warships beading towards Somalia. The others are on warships already off the

Defence Secretary 'William. Perry said that the U.S. troops returning to Somalia would be "equipped with the conventional weapons sufficlent to protect the force and to protect any U.N. force that they are dealing with."

"We also bave equipped with them with some nonlethal equipment in case they run into a situation requiring crowd control, when they want to avoid having to use weapons that could be

ror supplies and guidance the U.S. military turned to one of the most experienced forces in crowd control the riot-hardened veterans of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Sticky foam shot from a gun as a "high-tech lasso." barrier foam laced with teargas, wooden and rubber pellets instead of bullets: The arsenal is designed to provide protection without spilling blood.

The Pentagon justified the use of such weapons as necessary for the mission "to get the UNOSOM (U.N.) forces out, to extract the equipment that we leased to the UN-OSOM forces and to do this with no loss of life."

Mr. Perry said that "from my point of view there is nothing secret" about the arms. But the Somalia venture would mark the first time they have been used in a

high-profile operation.
But the New York Times reported, however, that Pentagon lawyers had drawn the line at laser ray-guns and refused their deployment on humanitarian grounds. Defence Department officials refused to comment.



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday hosted an iftar in honour of tribal leaders and representatives of public and private institutions in Aqaba Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chambertain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Asem Ben Nayef and Aqaba Region Authority President and Acting Aqaba Governor Fayez Al Khasawneh. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb prayers together (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

18 to go on trial, two freed in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) - Eighteen Islamists were ordered Saturday to stand trial before an Egyptian high security court for the murder of 15 people, including two police generals. The alleged members of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyeh are accused of a string of murders carried out in 1993 in the Qena province of southern Egypt. The attacks were carried out in revenge for the April 1993 death sentences against seven militants for an attack on a tourist hus in Qena that wounded six Germans and two Egyptians, the prosecution said. Three minors are among the accused, on charges of keeping a watch on police movements for the Gamaa. The public prosecutor's office, meanwhile, freed two out of 27 Muslim Brotherhood officials who have been under arrest since January on charges of supporting Islamic militants waging war on the government. The Brotherhood has no legal status but has been tolerated by the authorities.

RAWALPINDI (R) — The son of the late Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, Ejaz Ul Haq, who brandished an unlicensed Kalashnikov at a rally and challenged police to arrest him, was duly detained on Saturday. A senior police official said Ejaz, a member of parliament and leading foe of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was arrested for possessing and displaying an illegal weapon, punishable with 10 and seven years jail respectively. Local newspapers said Ejaz brandished the assault rifle in Rawalpindi on Friday at a rally, declared it illegal and dared the police to arrest him. He was protesting illegal and dared the police to arrest him. He was protesting at the conviction of another opposition deputy for having an unlicensed gun. Sbeikh Rashid Ahmad was sentenced by an anti-terrorist court on February 9 to seven years' bard labour and a fine of 200,000 rupees (\$6,490) for keeping an illegal Kalasbnikov.

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed 38 rebel Kurdish guerrillas in a hattle in southeast Turkey on Saturday, security officials said. They said two soldiers were also killed in the hattle, which occured at rocky slopes near the rugged Hani town in the province of Diyarbakir. They did not give other details. It was the bloodiest single clash reported from Divarbakir province for nearly six months. Troops killed another 33 militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) in the nearby Dicle town earlier in the week. The army has concentrated its efforts since October on a drive against some 3,000 rebels hiding in the densely-wooded mountains of Tunceli province, north of Divarhakir. Security forces in the western town of Nazilli arrested on Saturday five members of the PKK and seized several pisiols and ammunition. Anatolian news agency

CAIRO (AFP) - In March President Hosni Muharak is to visit Japan from March 13-16 on a mission to reinforce economic ties, the official Egyptian news agency MENA announced on Saturday. Mr. Mubarak, following foreign Minister Amr Musa who laid the ground for the visit when he travelled to Tokyo earlier this month, will be accompanied by several ministers and businessmen. The balance of trade is heavily in favour of Japan, which in 1992 exported \$578 million worth of goods and imported products worth \$92 million from Egypt, according 10 official figures in Cairo. Egypt's debt to Japan of around \$2.5 billion dollars was rescheduled in 1992.

Libya rejects charges of rights violations other relevant bodies should

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya has protested to the United Nations over a recent Voice of America (VOA) broadcast criticising its human rights record and called for an impartial investigation of the rights situation in both

In a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali published on Friday, Libyan U.N. Representative Mohammad Azwai said his country "refutes the sophistries and fabrications" contained in the Feh. 9 broadcast which he said were aimed at 'misrepresenting the human rights record in Libya." "At the same time, they

are to be seen in the framework of the vicious campaign being waged by the United States of America against Libya in order to obstruct its endeavours to achieve economic and social development and ensure the welfare of its people," be Mr. Azwai said Libya, as

on many previous occasions, was prepared for "an imparmoury into numan me violations, in any form whatever, and into the grounds for these false allegations." At the same time, he added, "we insist on an inquiry in the very country that

violating human rights, namely the United States of America." The General Assembly, the Security Council and

'make appropriate arrangements for the conduct of the necessary inquiries," he said, while affirming Libya's national sovereignty its total rejection of interference in its internal affairs. The United States of

America, which claims to be the world's greatest defender of human rights, must look to itself and must examine its own record of numerous human rights violations, of oppression and of racial discrimination, particularly gainst hlacks and American

"The events that took place in Los Angeles provide the best indication of that," he added, apparently refer-ring to rioting which followed acquittal of four policemen in 1992 on charges of beating up a black motorist. Mr. Azwal said the United

States had been "alarmed and disconcerted by the political stability enjoyed by the -Libyan people... and by its steadfast character despite the iniquitous economic embargo imposed as a result of the hegemony of certain major powers in the Security Council. chiefly the United States of America itself." He was alinding to sanc-

tions first imposed on Libya in 1992 for failing to surrenaccuses other countries of der for trial two men indicted in the United States and Britain for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

British trade delegation holds talks in Baghdad BAGHDAD (AFP) - Brit- had come with the approval

ish businessmen held talks Saturday with Iraqi oil and foreign ministry officials, joining a rush for lucrative contracts with Baghdad once U.N. sanctions are lifted.

The trip by representatives of 27 companies was orga-nised amid great secrecy as London is still fiercely against any lifting of the oil and trade sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwaii in August

Edmund Sykes, a spokesman for the Iraqi-British Interests Group set up two years ago, said the delegation

of the British authorities to explore the Iraqi market and get an idea for the future. Russian, French and Italian companies have led the rush to set up deals with Iraq. notably in the oil sector. ahead of the end of sanctions. Iraq has the second-highest oil reserves in the world,

The British delegation arrived late Friday at the same time as a similar group from Spain and just ahead of about 15 Jordanian industralists who left Amman Saturday for talks in Bagbdad on possible joint-ventures.

13:30 Doha, Muscal (GF) 16:05 Moscow (SU) 21:09 Cairo (MS)

after Saudi Arabia.

WHAT'S COING

Semar (in Arabic) enti-led "The Future of ledation-Palestinian ledations" by Dr. As'ad ledation at the by Cultural Centre at

PLAYS

he in Arabict entitled a ware Not Yourself the Royal Cultural (top: at 9:00 p.m.

KHIBITIONS

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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PROGRAMME TWO Cocottes Minutes
..... Que Le Mielluer Gagne Des Trains Pas Comme Les Autres 19:00 News In French 19:15 Ushuaia 19:30 Profiles of the Muslim World 19:50 Charlic Chaplin 20:00 Erchus "Aftermath" Siep by Siep Hearibeal Feature film: "Boundaries of the

23:59 Till We Meet Again

De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757

WEATHER **PRAYER TIMES** Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology. 04:53 Fair 06:11 (Sunrisc) Duha

Skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

CHURCHES Min./Max. icmp. St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 Amman 5/15
Aqaba 12 / 24
Deserts 4 / 17
Jordan Valley 11 / 22 St. Joseph Church Tct. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tcl. Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aquha 22 Humidily readings: Amman 50 per cent,

The government has recently taken new measures to try to put a break on price rises, including a hefty travel tax and price controls. The steps have halted the decline of the dinar, at least for the

moment, and cut the price of some foods.

40,000. The new rate, though a lot of money in Iraqi terms. is worth \$110 on the black

said a dollar fetched 950 dinars early in the week but

consumer goods, inflicting additional harm and pain on the Iraqis.

Last year only about 500 Iraqis made the trip to Mec-

The newspapers said Saudi Arabia was obliged to accept about 19,000 Iraqi pilgrims this year, according to a quota agreed at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. They also said Saudi authorities had raised the cost of the Haj and accused Saudi police to baras-

sing Iraqis in previous years. Performing the Haj to Mecca once in a lifetime is one of the five essential ohligations for Muslims.

With no end in sight to the sanctions, the plummeting dinar and soaring inflation in Iraq have put the costs of the long pilgrimage well beyond the reach of the most Iraqis.

Iraqis wishing to travel abroad now have to pay 100,000 dinars instead of

Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.

German-spenking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

Early this year the dollar was worth about 600 dinars. price hikes of foodstuffs and

This week the Iraqi dinar sank to its lowest levels to the U.S. dollar. Baghdad traders was hovering now at 850.

Officially, Iraqis are only allowed to take \$50 with them wben travelling. Last month the government said it would issue a 250

dinar hanknote, the highestdenomination bill in Iraq. Baghdad traders said the bill was not yet circulated for fear of further fuelling inflation. The black market is illegal

in Iraq and offenders risk having a band or foot amoutated. Iraq's central bank has priced the dollar at 600 dinars and legal money changers said they were almost running out of business as most people with dollars were opting for the illegal black

market despite the risks. The government is also reintroducing strict price controls. State-run press and television carry price lists of farm produce and essential foodstuffs.

Violators of the controls risk a prison term of at least six months and their husiness closed indefinitely.

Baghdad markets were stable on Friday. Traders said prices of some foodstuffs and vegetables were declining. Sugar, in high demand in Iraq, fell to 450 dinars from

700 per kg, rice to 350 from

400 and cooking oil to 800

from 900. But traders said the measures, though effective so far, would not have a far-reaching impact on prices if the U.N. sanctions continued. The government took similar measures last year but failed to

Pakistani police arrest Zia's son

Troops kill 38 rebel Kurds in Turkey

Mubarak to visit Japan in March

stabilise the economy. **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

Agaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mukhles Halasa	8192
Dr. Shabanch Allzzah	
Dr. Shtajwi Abu Zaved	
Dr. Khalil Al Tuslug	
Firas pharmacy	
Ferdows pharmacy	
Al Ascma pharmacy	ณ37แ
Nairoukh pharmacy	
Al Salam pharmacy	
Yacouh pharmacy	
Shmeisani pharmacy	
Nairoujh pharmacy	n50
Najih pharmacy	8476

Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)

Alques pharmacy [—]

ZARQA: Dr. Walid Halasch 9X2749 Khalifch pharmacy 9X5417

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 6-1111 Civil Detence Immediate Highway Police \$45402 Traffic Police \$96,501 Public Security Department 670521 Telephone Information (directory assistance) Ibn Sina Hospital (19)986732

HOSPITALS

ssein Medical Centre 813813/32 Hussein Meura. Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/n Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdalt 667279 | Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich | 775|11/26 | A my. Marka | 91|611/15 | Queen Alia Hospital | 61240/50 | Amal Hospital | 674|55 | ZARQA: Zarqa Govt, Huspitat (19)483323 Zarqa National Hospital

Princes: Basma Hospital ... 102/275555 Greek Catholic Hospital 102/272755

Greek Catholic Hospital 1021272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

Princess Hava Hospital

IRBID:

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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (188153204, 5, where it should always be very-fied. APRIVALS

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08:35	Jeddab r	RI
09:55	Duhai. Abu Dhahi I	R
10:10	Larnaca, Damascus I	RI
10:15 .	Beinst :	R 1
10:15 .	Doha, Bahrain (RI
10:45	Vienna, Agaba (Q I
17:00	New York, Amsterdam I	Ř.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

08:35	Jeddah (RJ)
09:55	Dubai. Abu Dhahi [RJ]
10:10	Lamaca, Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Beirut RTI
10:15	Doha, Bahrain (R.I.)
10:45	Vienna, Aqaba (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam [RJ]
17:20	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:55	London (P.I)

Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

..... Amsicrdam (KL) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights** (Terminal 1)

11:15 Amsterdam New York [RJ] Albens, Rome (RJ) 11:30 Frankfurt (RJ 11:30 Aqaba, Vienna [RJ] 12:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) New Delhi (RJ) 21:30 New Delhi [RJ]
21:36 Damascus [RJ]
22:50 Singapore, Jakarta [RJ]
22:30 Bangkok [RJ]
23:00 Ahu Dhabi, Dubai [RJ]

23:15

... Jeddah (add) (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

| Manches | Manc Cairo (MS) HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Other Flights (Terminal 2) Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damuscus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damuscus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday Manama (GF Catro (MS) MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Carroi Cauliflower 140/80 Cucumbers (large) 200 / 120 Cucumbers (small) 360 / 280 Garik Grape Fruit 280 / 200 Marrow (large) ... Marrow (small) 350 / 200 Orange Pepper (hot) ... WWW. 1000 / 800 450 / 300 180 / 100

Home I

Royal Highness Princess on That Ras in Karak Govern

Princess Basma from QAF in . MMAN IPetral As ampaign spearheaded in the Oueen Alia Fund for

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Secial Developmen: (04f) Her Royal Highes Princess Basma Saturarysied That Ras town ant South Mazar district of Karak Governorate and formon totalling JD5.000 for socio-economic derelopment activities.
The Princess, who chairs me QAF board of trustees. stiressed a rally in the guhem lown urging its

aldarity during the holy month of Ramadan. She called on all the solution groups in the on to step up efforts in deteloping women's and diliter's services, expressng hope that local women

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Inspectors issu tomerchants d

B lana Husseini Sugar de Aresan Times:

AMAN - Ministry of " list inspectors assued dams during the first 15 dayoi Ramadan in efforts pead down on violations

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AMMAN (I last year et fruit, carmin total of J according to Marketing (AMO) Sate An AMO that the maj (nearly 214, sisted of fresi fruits, noting

Arab Emiral ped the list o purchases to tonnes, follow and Lebaner Jordan's 2 Arab coust amounted to only, added

Last year regerables re



Her Rayal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chats with children at a kindergarten in That Ras in Karak Governorate

Princess Basma announces donation from QAF in Karak governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Ramadan charity campaign spearheaded by the Queen Alia Fund for Sncial Development (QAF), Her Royal High-ness Princess Basma Saturday visited That Ras town in the South Mazar district of Karak Governorate and announced a two-part donation totalling JD5,000 for socio-economic development activities.

The Princess, who chairs the QAF board of trustees, addressed a rally in the southern town urging its residents towards social solidarity during the holy month of Ramadan.

Sbe called on all the voluntary groups in the town to step up efforts in developing women's and children's services, expressing hope that local women will be given a greater role in socio-economic affairs.

QAF's JD3,000 donation will help promote local women's activities, and a donation of JD2,000 will promote the work of the local kindergarten.

The Princess looked in on local social services and watched the process of distribution of in-kind assistance to 300 needy families as part of the Ramadan charity campaign.

Local voluntary youth groups were involved in the

Princess Basma receives Mrs. McMullan

Also Saturday Princess Basma received Robin McMullan, wife of Australian Minister of Trade Bob McMulian at the headquarters of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, a QAF statement

Mrs. McMullan, whose academic interests include cultural studies, communications and women's issues, showed great in-terest in the briefing she received about the development projects of QAF in Jordan, said the state-

Discussion, said the statement, focused on the activities of the Jordanian National Committee for Women, which is hosted by QAF, and the preparations for the Fourth World Con-ference on Women to be held in Beijing in Septem-

Mrs. McMullan expressed her admiration of the development efforts by and for Jordanian women and the activities of the Jordanian non-governmental sector, the statement said.

Visiting trade minister says Australia ready to help in rift valley development

AMMAN (I.T.) — Austra-lian Trade Minister Bob McMullan Saturday opened talks with Jordanian officials by voicing his country's readiness to help the Kingdom in desert farming and in de-veloping the Jordan Rift Valley by providing Australian

Speaking at the start of his talks with Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, Mr. McMullan said that in the peace era Australia is willing to help make Jordan a central market for the sale of Australian products to the countries of the regian, nating that the opening of the regional office of the Australian Meat and Livestock Cor-poration (AMLC) in Amman

would help this process. The regional office is ex-pected to be formally inaugurated by Mr. McMullan during his current visit which started Friday, according to Australian embassy officials.

In reviewing the Middle Eastern economies, Mr. McMullan expressed his country's willingness to take part in the Amman economic conference due to open in October this year.

He voiced his country's readiness to increase its imports of Jordanian phosphates, potash and fertilisers. Mr. McMullan's statements came at the outset of the Jordanian-Australian Joint Committee meeting which is entrusted with promoting Jordanian-Australian economic and trade links.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that the talks are expected to cover

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

early January.

the prospect of launching joint ventures and increasing fordan's exports to Australia

Welcoming the Australian minister and his accompanying delegation, Mr. Abul Ragheb underlined Jordan's desire to promote its trade and economic cooperation with Australia.

He stressed the need to adjust the trade balance between Australia and Jordan as it is now heavily in favour of Australia and said it is haped that Canberra would import more Jordanian phosphate, fertilisers and potash. Mr. Abul Ragheb also said that while Australia's exports to Jordan in the past few years have increased. Jordan's exports to the Australian markets stood still.

Australian embassy sources said Australia sells Jordan nearly \$60 millinn warth of meat, livestock, dairy products and cereals and imports \$10 million worth of fertilisers, potash and phosphate.

Referring to peace in the region, Mr. Abul Ragheb said it was expected to usher in a new phase of economic development and a better standard of living for its peo-

Mr. Abul Ragheb said Jordan was in the process of modernising its investment laws with a view to attracting more investors in most do-

He said the coming Amman economic conference was expected to back Jordan's investment efforts. Following the two ministers' meeting, subcommittees

Visiting Australian Minister of Trade Bob dustry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and McMullan and an accompanying delega-tion Saturday meet with Minister of In-

ministry officials on the first day of trade cooperation talks (Petra photo) -

emanating from the joint committee started their own. meetings to discuss joint projects in industry and agriculture and in training of personnel in transport and tourism, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which said that the subcommittees will finalise their meetings Sunday with the signing of

the minutes of deliberations. Mr. McMullan Saturday also met with Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif and discussed agricultural cooperation and Jordan's imports of Australian meat as well as the exchange of expertise in agricultural fields.

Petra quoted Minister of Agriculture officials as saying that Jordan last year imported 563,571 bead of sheep from Australian markets.

Mr. McMullan and his delegation met later with Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and discussed cooperation in irrigation techniques.

Mr. Irsheidat told his guest that Jordan was interested in cooperating with Australia in the water sector and would like to benefit from that country's expertise in the construction of dams and in developing artesian wells.

He also voiced Jordan's appreciation of Australia's past assistance in irrigation. noting that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation had sent Jordanian cadres to Australia to acquire that country's expertise in water related

In reply Mr. McMullan said that Australia was willing to cooperate with Jordan in the implementation of water projects in the Kingdom.

Mr. McMullan was later expected to hold meetings with the Jordanian Businessmen's Association and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Inspectors issue 2,318 citations to merchants during Ramadan

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times'

AMMAN — Ministry of Supply inspectors issued 2,318 citations to merchants during the first 15 days of Ramadan in efforts of the supply law, particularly during the fasting

According to Mohammad Zaytoun, director of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Supply, price violations witness a sharp increase during the holy month because people's need for food and other commodities doubles, "thus opening the door for merchants to monopolise the prices."

"It is noticed that violations almost tripled during Ramadan with an average of 155 citations issued a

day, while on regular days, citations usually average only 40 to 50," Dr. Zaytoun told the Jordan Times Saturday.

According to Dr. Zaytoon, the main aim of the ministry is to protect consumers by setting and monitoring prices and ensuring the quality of the products sold.

He said violations include nat to following the set prices, selling some items by quantity rather than by weight, and failing to place price tags on items.

Before the start of Ramadan, the ministry announced that foodstuffs were in sufficient supply to meet the local market's requirements. Additional shipments of meat and vegetables were expected every week during the

The ministry also announced that it would tighten its measures to ensure that food prices are within regulations. Often, prices rise sharply during

> According to Dr. Zay-toun, 66 inspectors are covering different areas in Amman. In addition, he said, there is an office in the ministry designated for citizens who want to complaint of any violations of pricing by merchants. Dr. Zaytoun said viola-

tors are referred to court. He said fines start at JD 30 and could be as steep as JD 10,000.

Imprisonment in some cases, especially if the person charged is a repeat offender, is an additional penalty, he added.

Industrialists head for Iraq to follow-up talks sites for industries for clos-

AMMAN - A delegation of Jordanian industrialists Saturday headed for Iraq for follow-up talks on Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in industries and joint ventures that were initiated during discussions held in

One of the key themes for the visit is to explore whether Jordanian industrialists could cooperate with the Iraqis in launching industries at military installations that have been turned into facilities for civilian purposes after the Iraqi government met with the terms of the Gulf war over Kuwait, informed

sources said. Talks were initiated on such cooperation during the last visit of a similar delegation, and this time some of the industrialists in the delegation would actually visit the proposed

er information and possible planning, said the sources.

The delegation, led by Amman Chamber of Industry Chairman Khaldoun Abu Hassan, will stay in Iraq for nearly a week during which meetings are scheduled with senior Iraqi government officials and private sector businessmen.

"The discussions would involve the Iraqi ministries of industry and trade, the federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, related institutions and Iraqi businessmen." said an Amman Chamber of Industry spokeswoman.

"Some of the delegation members will also travel outside Baghdad to some of the industrial sites in the country to explore possibilities," added the spokeswoman.

The team includes three members of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry and representatives of several industrial sectors.

The delegation has taken with it a 16-truck convoy of food and medicine and other relief supplies as a gift for the Iraqi people suffering under the 56month-old international sanctions against these in able country of the coun

The sanctions, imposeur after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, remain in place pending United Nations satisfaction that Baghdad has met with the terms of the ceasefire that ended the war over Kuwait in early 1991.

Under the sanctions, dozens of Iraqi military installations bave been dismantled, and many of them still bave equipment that could be used for civilian purposes, and this is an area where Jordanian and Iraqi businessmen could cooperate to launch projects, the sources noted.

lities of Jordanian-Iraqi industrial cooperation are unlimited," said one source, who, like others. did not want to be identified. Specifics of the cooperation under immediate discussion were not ayed-

eased or lifted, the possibi-

Industry bas established: what businessmen describe as a very good working relationship with Iraq, par-. ticularly in the past four years when it closely coor-dinated with the Iraqi private sector and filled in the

vacuum created by the in-

ternational isolation im-

posed on the country's institutions. Recently, the Amman Chamber of Industry was successful in mediating a business dispute over prices and lifting a logjam in Jordanian vegetable oil ex-

ports to Iraq: Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammad Mehdi Saleh

visited Amman early this month and beld talks with government officials as well as businessmen. Daring those meetings, Mr. Saleh voiced his country's keen interest in following up the talks on industrial cooperation with Jordan.

According: 40: businessmen, one of the areas being explored is joint ventures in food-processing.

"The facilities are available in Iraq, but most of them do not bave the capitat to run them," said a involvement in the projects would mean taking in technology as well as running capital for the plants."

The businessman noted that food, including raw material to produce foodstuff, and medicine are exempt from the international sanctions, and as such, some of the projects under discussion need not wait for an easing or lifting of the sweeping embargo.

WHAT'S **GOING** ON

SEMINAR

A Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Futore of Jordanian-Palestinian Relations" by Dr. As'ad Abdni Rahman at the Royal Cultural Centre at

PLAYS

A Play (in Arabic) entitled 'You Are Not Yourself' at the Royal Cuttural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Chap of Samarqand" at the Royal Cultural Centre at \$8.00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

hy Sabah Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel. 688701).

Exhibition of handicrafts by Hasmig Kuymjian at the Royal Cultural Centre. Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology

Center. "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Center. Exhibition of works by Oasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex

Gallery. Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Health ministry to expand services in Zarqa governorate

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Health Department Director Mohammad Turk Saturday said that the Ministry of Health plans to carry out several projects in Zarga Governorate this year to boost medical services in

view of growing demand. Speaking at a meeting of government-employed physicians and specialists. Dr. Turk said that among the projects are the establishment of two health centres in Azraq and Batrawi at a cost of JD 500,000, a JD 350,000 health centre in Jannaa near

health centre at Qasr Halla-bar at the cost of JD 100,000.

Referring 10 last year's achievements. Dr. Turk said that his department built a comprehensive health centre at Al Musheirfeh and a primary health centre at Al Falah district, both of which offer services to a total of 70,000 inhabitants.

Also last year the depanment built a health centre at Duleil together with adjoinwarehouses for drugs. and other relevant facilities. and opened a laboratory for

the mother and child care Zarqa to serve more than 60,000 inhabitants and a 1993 agricultural exports

total JD 74.3m — AMO

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan lasi year exported 318,300 tonnes of vegetables and fruit, earning the country a total of JD 74.3 million. according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Saturday.

An AMO statement said that the majority of exports (nearly 214,700 tonnes) consisted of fresh vegetables and fruits, noting that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) topped the list of importers with purchases totalling 123,000 tonnes, followed by Bahrain

and Lebanon. Jordan's exports to non-Arab countries last year amounted to 5,200 tonnes only, added the statement. Last year's exports of

the 1993 figures, said the statement which noted that most of the vegetable exports consisted of tomatoes, green peppers. eggplants. squash. cabbage, beans and lettuce. as well as dried onions. cucumbers and parsley.

On the other hand, fruit exports registered an increase over the 1993 figures, according to the statement. It said melons, lemons, grapes, olives, oranges and grapefruit were among the major exported fruits.

The statement referred to agricultural imports last year. noting that they totalled 26,500 tonnes, of which 60,5 per cent were vegetables. These included potatoes. dates, garlic and apples. vegetables registered a de-

VTC trainees open exhibit AMMAN (Petra) - Women ing for women in line with the

trainees at three vocational training centres Saturday opened an eight-day exhibi-tion at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to display their handicrafts.

The trainees, who are graduating from the vocational centres of Wibdat, Manarah and Um Nuwara operated by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), are displaying products they made at these centres together worth

VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan, who opened the exhibition, said that the show aims to highlight the trainees' potential and skill which helps them to earn a

He said the exhibition, displaying more than 500 pieces including embroideries, is part of the VTC's endeavours to promote vocational traincorporation's current five-

year plan. Dr. Atwan said that the 1993-1997 plans aims at improving the quality of the VTC programmes and up-grading the level of graduates in a bid to belp them find jobs

in the local market. The VTC, be said, is currently studying plans to ex-pand its operations and open more training centres in all parts of the country.

According to the five-year plan also, the VTC will step up its cooperation with regional and Arab organisations for the sake of exchanging expertise that would bein the VTC's centres cover up to 40 per cent of their expenses through their own income, up from 20 per cent at present, said Dr. Atwan.

So far the VTC's centres in Jordan have graduated



Women trainees from Vocational Training Corporation centres display their handiwork at the opening of an eight-day

exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo)

99,000 trainees, said Dr. VTC graduates. Atwan who expressed appreciation to the 3,800 factories Referring to new projects, Dr. Atwan said that the VTC and other businesses which, he said, have closely cooper-ated with the VTC in providplans to open new centres for men and women at Irbid: Beit Ras, Zarqa, Hashemieh

and Tafileh, noting that another four centres are now being set up. These, he said, are located at Abu Nuseir. Muab, Marka and Wadi-

ing on-the-job training to Commerce, industry chambers urge opportune investment climate

AMMAN (Petra) — The presidents of the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Amman Chamber of Com-merce Khaldoun Abu Hassan and Haider Murad called on the government to create the right investment climate to encourage the private sector to initiate projects that would eventually help reduce the rate of unemployment in Jor-

The private sector, particularly the industrial sector, is the most appropriate area for training university and community college graduates and offering them jobs, said Mr. Abu Hassan in an interview with the Jordan News Agen-

cy, Petra. The industrial sector currently employs around 110,000 workers who earn a total of JD 237 million annually. It is paying direct and indirect fees and taxes amounting to JD 314 million. according to last year's fi-gures, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

Over the past four years, 17.500 new companies were registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade with a combined capital of JD 900 million and 35,000 new jobs.

Referring to the Sahab Industrial City, Mr. Abu Hassan said that it houses 331 industrial firms and factories potentials; he added.

employing 12,400 workers. He stressed that the unem-ployed could receive training with these industries whose exports accounts for 90 per cent of the country's overall exports.

His views were echoed by Mr. Murad who said that only through new investments and new income generating schemes can the country deal with the unemployment issue and subsequently with poverty ...

The public sector's employment potential is diminishing at a time when the private sector holds great

Jordanian charity to buy food for Chechens with Libyan aid

AMMAN (AP) — Libya has donated \$100,000 to victims of the recent conflict in Chechenya, and Jordan's Chechen community is buying food and medical supplies with the money, a volunteer organisation said

Yousef Belto, spokesman for the Friends of the Chechens Society, said Libya had pledged another \$150,000 in aid for Muslim Chechens in the next few

weeks. Russia sent military forces to Chechenya on Dec. 1t to quell a secessionist rebellion there led by President Dzhokhar Dudayev. In the I ensning war, thousands have been killed and maimed, and civilians displaced from their homes.

A ceasefire was announced last week after Russian forces overran most of Chechenya. Mr. Belto said the Libyan aid came after the country's leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, met with a delegation representing Jordanian Chechens late last year.

"Libya agreed to give money to a Libyan agent in Jordan to purchase food and other humanitarian supplies for Muslim Chechens," Mr. Belto said in an interview with the Associated Press. He said Libya also offered to treat wounded Chechens

in its hospitals.

Mexican troops move deep into former rebel territory

RANCHO YAXOLOB, Mexico (Agencies) - Only three days after the president said he was trying to avoid confrontations with rebels, Mexican troops began moving deeper into formerly rebelheld territory in eastern Chiapas state.

The movement came a week after President Ernesto Zedillo ordered thousands of troops to encircle the area that had been a base of support for the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Two armoured vehicles with 90-mm cannons, eight Humvee jeeps and four large troop carriers were seen leaving the nearby village of Lazaro Cardenas early Friday. Soldiers said they were headed to Venustiano Carranza, about five miles (eight kilometres) deeper into the

This is still Zapatista

identify himself, said as he waved to the mountains above this rolling valley. They're all up there. If we leave, they'll be right back down."

In a communique released Wednesday, Zapatista leaders repeated their stance: They want to renew peace talks, but the army's presence in the mountains is an obsta-

A church-backed peace commission called on both sides to return to negotiations before the end of February. Among other conditions, the National Mediation Commission urged government they have occupied since fast

Terrified peasants Thursday felled huge trees and dug trenches in an attempt to impede the army's advance. "We are just peasants. We

comes to grab us and accuse us of being with the Zapatista army. We don't want to happen here what happened to Morelia," said a man in the

village of La Victoria.

The village of Morelia, at the head of the Tzaconeja River valley, has been abandoned by most of its 1,200

inhabitants. On Jan. 7, 1994, about 30 soldiers entered the town and reportedly tortured and killed three men and dumped their bodies on the roadside. A forensic investigation by the U.S.-based Physicians For Human Rights confirmed the villagers' story, but the Mexican government has

taken no action in the case. Meanwhile an explosion on a gasoline pipeline in the southeastern Mexican state of Tabasco injured 23 people, some seriously, state Governor Roberto Madrazo said

Mr. Madrazo said he could not confirm news reports of at least seven dead in the blast, which took place just before midnight Thursday (0600 GMT Friday). "There are 23 injured,

three have already gone home, eight are serious and two are in intensive care," Mr. Madrazo told reporters. Flames leapt some 50 yards

(metres) in the air from the blast and fires raged through Friday morning.
Officials of state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) said an explosion on a 24-inch gasoline

pipeline near the border be-

tween Tabasco and Chiapas

states cansed secondary

blasts on two gas pipelines Reforma newspaper said at least seven people had been killed in the blast, but Mr. Madrazo and Pemex could not confirm any dead.



introduces members of the delegation to the Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak dur-

nomyrdin is in Poland for an official two-day visit (AFP photo)

Walesa tells Chernomyrdin: NATO entry is our business

WARSAW (R) — Polish President Lech Walesa, in a blunt retort to Kremlin leader Boris Yeltsin, has told Russia that Poland would press for NATO membership whether Moscow wanted it or

"You know our stand: We will strive to join NATO and we are not going to ask Russia about it," Mr. Walesa told visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin Friday evening.

Mr. Walesa's comments, distriboted to news organisations by the Polish president's office, came less than two days after Mr. Yeltsin bad restated Russia's outright opposition to any expansion of the Western military alliance into Eastern Europe.

But Mr. Walesa made clear what Poland, dominated by Moscow for most of the last two centuries, thought of the matter, restating the Polish position to the Russian prime minister in person.

Its desire for membership of the Western alliance was not directed against Russia or its interests, he said. But Poland would not back down. As if to underline his

stance, Polish Acting Defence Minister Jerzy Milewski clinched an agreement in Washington Friday on expanded defence cooperation with the United States.

Washington announced that it was prepared to sell advanced weapons such as customs cooperation, nuclear

F-16 fighters to Poland and several other former Soviet Bloc states, for the first time

since the cold war ended. Mr. Yeltsin, addressing the Russian parliament Thursday in a prominent state of the nation speech, urged NATO to back Russian democracy rather than seeking to isolate the Kremlin in Europe.

Attacking plans for "hasty expansion," Mr. Yeltsin said: This continent... has already generated two global military catastrophes, and we do not want Europe and the world to return to old or new division lines.

NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said Friday the alliance was not out to isolate Russia but it would not give Mr. Yeltsin a veto on its enlargement policy towards Eastern Europe.

Mr. Chernomyrdin himself has sought a pragmatic stance, telling Polish reporters before leaving for Warsaw that he did not want differences over NATO to harm economic relations.

He was due Saturday to sign a series of economic agreements, including one clearing the way for two to start in April on the \$2.5 billion Polish section of a pipeline to bring natural gas from Siberia and on to West-

ern Europe. The others concern East-West transport projects, tele-communications, fisbing, Polish construction in Russia's Kaliningrad enclave,

emergencies and laying the groundwork for general economic cooperation.

The theme of Mr. Chernomyrdin's visit Friday and Saturday has been to focus on useful and correct economic and political relations rather tban to emphasise differ-

Relations between the two countries, clouded by the decades of Soviet influence over Poland which ended in 1989, have been troubled over NATO and other issues, including Polish concern over Russia's military action in the breakaway Chechenya ге-

Mr. Chernomyrdin bimself put off a visit scheduled for November after Russian travellers reported being beaten by Polish police at a Warsaw railway station.

"Last year was a year of wasted opportunities," Mr. Walesa told Mr. Chernomyrdin, "We must think over the reasons for the areas where we do not understand each other," he added.

The economic ties are so important for both sides that Mr. Chernomyrdin decided to come even though Polandis in political chaos following last week's decision of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak to resign, under pressure om a hostile Walesa,.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was due to bold more talks with Mr. Pawlak and met his probable successor. Parliament Speaker Jozef Oleksy, who is trying to form a new cabinet.

Unknown Van Dyck discovered in Liechtenstein palace

VADUZ (AFP) — A previously unknown work by the Flemish painter Van Dyck depicting a seven-year-old boy has been discovered at ". the palace of the reigning monarch of Liechtenstein. Prince Hans Adam II, royal aides said Friday. Experts from the Swiss Institute for the Study of Art identified the painting as a work by Antoine Van Dyck dating from 1625 during restoration work in the royal collection, 1: one of the finest in Europe. The prince was given the painting, previously attributed to an unknown artist, ... as a wedding present in 1967. -

Female students 📑 barred from men's dormitories

DHAKA (AP) - Adding

insult to insult, women students are now barred from . entering male dormitories at 5 Dhaka University. Campus authorities tightened the regulations. Women already are ... in revolt against a 40-year-old rule that they must be in their own dorms by sunset and ... must sign a registry. "This is another blow to our freedom of movement," said Ms. Habiba Sumi, a student leader. Women account for one . third of the 28,000 students at . Dhaka University, the largest campus in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh. Earlier this month, the women began ... a campaign against the sexist dormitory rules, holding frequent rallies to condemn the :. administrators as male chauvinists. The women say ... they will shut the university ... in protest for one day Sunday. Authorities have formed a committee to review the .. rule. At the same time, they tightened rules barring men from inviting women into their dorms. Men have never been allowed to visit the . women's quarters. The new restriction came after a woman was found ill at a men's hostel last week. "We don't want to protect the girls from the bad boys, and that's : why we are preventing them from visiting the men's hos-tels," said Abul Hashem, head of a men's dormitory. The issue has set off a debate in newspapers, with public opinion divided. Many of the students read feminist author " Taslima Nasrin, who targetshe fled Bangladesh last August under a death threat by a fanatic Muslim group., Ms. Nasrin is on bail under charges of blasphemy against the Koran. She is in England "on a lecture tour but lives in

Germany to criminalise marital rape

BONN (AP) - Parliament Friday moved to make marital rape a crime by throwing out an 1871 law that consi-... dered women property of their husbands and put sexual contact in the couple beyond the reach of the law. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party. which previously argued that criminalising wife abuse would weaken the family, has agreed to the reform for the first time. A new law's pasyear. "The idea of marriage has changed," said Horst Eylmann of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union. during Friday's parliamen-tary debate. Marriage today is a partnership of two people with equal rights." A third of German wives have been victims of violence from their hushands, according to the Federal Ministry for Youth, and Women's Affairs. In 1993, more than 6,000 extramarital rapes were reported . in Germany. Figures have not been kept for rapes reported within a marriage.

ceremony

BUCHAREST (R) - An ... angry bride and groom beat np a drunken Romanian priest at the altar because he during their wedding cere-mony, the Romanian News Rompres said the priest. from the eastern village of. Tisau, had previously been involved in a string of drunken brawls. The wedding foulup proved the last straw for ... tion, who finally broke their silence and talked of his scandalous behaviour to a repor-

Sihanouk appeals for peace with rebels

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (R) - Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk Saturday made an emotional appeal to senior Khmer Rouge guerrilla leaders to lay down their arms and halt their war

against the government. King Sihanouk's appeal follows confirmation of heavy casualties among government forces in fighting around the key Khmer Rouge base at Anlong Veng in the South East Asian's country's far

"Please don't let our people, our nation, continue this suffering." King Sihanouk said when opening a new school in Siem Reap town, 250 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh.

"Please, those Khmer Rouge who still regard themselves as the king's children, come back to national society, lay down your weapons and stop fighting in order to provide security for the peothe 72-year-old king added to applause from a crowd of about 5.000.

The dry-season military operation to secure the northern region has resulted in hundreds of government casualties, mostly from mines and boobytraps, soldiers involved in the fighting told

Exact numbers of killed were not known.

senior military source with close knowledge of the fighting said Saturday the



Klimer Rouge defectors pledge allegiance to the royal Cambodian government at a camp near Phnom Penh. Thousands of

capture the Anlong Veng Base, which is close to the

ing a serious and good operation. The planning is professional. I think it (final assault) will be very soon.

He added that the military

army was in a position to the source said. Bloody glove, cap produced in Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (R) — In a grandstand finish to a week of dramatic testimony in the O.J. Simpson double marder trial, Chief Prosecutor Marcia Clark Friday produced the much-publicised bloody glove and knit cap lound at the scene.

After opening a brown cardboard box containing the critical evidence, Ms. Clark removed two large manila envelopes and, in a moment of high drama, donned plastic gloves to reveal the dark brown leather glove and blue woollen cap.

πt

The moment brought the normally impassive jury to the edge of their seats as they craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the all-important

Ms. Clark then sbowed the glove and cap to detective Tom Lange, one of the two detectives in charge of the murder investigation, who identified them as the ones he had observed at the scene close to the feet of the body of Ronald Goldman.

Goldman was stabbed and slashed to death along with Nicole Brown Simpson, the football legend's ex-wife, on the night of June 12 outside Nicole Simpson's townhouse. Simpson has pleaded not guilty to their murders.

The introduction of the evidence came just minutes before the jury was due to go back to the hotel where they are sequestered and over strong objections by defence counsel Johnnie Cochran.

Why is Mr. Cochran trying to stop me introducing these items at this time?" Ms. Clark protested to Judge

After a sidebar conference at the jndge's bench, unbeard by the jury, Ms. Clark was allowed her moment of dra-

Legal analysts described it as a coup for the prosecution, as the jury has the long Presidents' Day boliday weekend to mull over the glove and cap. Court does not resume

until Tuesday. After the jury left and the court was cleared of spectators, Simpson was allowed to sit in Ms. Clark's seat at the prosecution bench and examine the glove and cap.

According to prosecutors, the glove is the left-hand match to one found in a nar-

them matches Simpson's.

on the scene.

said Simpson repeatedly asked him what he meant when he told the football great by telephone that his

ex-wife bad been killed. Mr. Phillips, who tele-phoned Simpson at his Chicacalm Simoson down.

row alleyway at the back of Simpson's estate by detective Mark Fuhrman, one of the first investigators on the

Simpson's attorneys, however, have suggested Mr. Fuhrman did not find the glove there, but planted it in the alleyway out of racial motives. Mr. Fuhrman, like the victims, is white. Simpson is black.

Both gloves have under-gone DNA testing to deter-mine if the blood found on The former star running

back, who became a popular sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman after his playing days, was also ordered to give bair samples so they could be matched with hair found on the cap.

Mr. Lange, questioned by Ms. Clark, told how he fol-lowed a trail of bloody foot-prints and blood droplets that led from the bodies towards Nicole Simpson's front door and then down a walkway that ran alongside ber townhouse in the trendy Brentwood section of Los Angeles.

He also described blood on a metal gate leading to the walkway, which was found half open by the first officers

He said there was what appeared to be a blood smear on the upper rung of the gate and two droplets of blood on the lower rung.

In earlier testimony Fridetective Ron Phillips

go botel to inform him of Nicole Simpson's death, said it took him about a minute to "He kept repeating him-

guerrillas have defected to the government in the last year, yet fighting continues in many parts of the countryside (AFP photo)

had learnt from last year's ill-fated operations when Anlong Veng and another key stronghold only to lose them both within a month because of poor planning and lack of discipline.

do you mean she's been kil-

led? Oh my God, Nicole is

self: 'She's been killed? What

dead." He repeated himself over and again," Mr. Phillips said in answer to questions from Mr. Cochran. During his second day on the witness stand, Mr. Phillips said be was not in a position to tell Simpson how

his ex-wife had died because at that point he did not know. Simpson grimaced several times as Mr. Phillips related the telephone conversation and spoke animatedly to another member of his defence team, attorney Carl

Asked by prosecutor Mar-cia Clark Thursday if Mr. Simpson had ever asked him about the circumstances of Nicole Simpson's death, Mr.

Phillips replied, "no." During his testimony Fri-day Mr. Phillips said be had given Simpson his office telephone number and his pager number and he learned on returning to his office that Simpson had called asking to

talk to him. Simpson caught a flight to Chicago shortly before mid-night on June 12 and his defence team claims he was at home waiting for a limousine to take him to the airport when the murders were committed.

Mr. Cochran, taking Mr. Phillips painstakingly through his testimony of Thursday, dwelled on what he called the "alleged" discovery of the marching bloody glove on Simpson's estate, just two miles (threekm) from where his ex-wife and Goldman were killed.

Mr. Phillips said Mr. Fuhrman led him to the glove, which appeared to match one found at the murder scene, shortly after his telephone conversation with Simpson.

He said he did not see any blood on the leaf and debrisstrewn walkway as he approached to within three or four feet (one metre) of the giove. From that distance, be said, he could not tell if there was blood on it.

Japan, U.S. to mark Iwo Jima anniversary

TOKYO (AFP) — The 50th anniversary of the landing of U.S. troops on the island of Iwo Jima, their first major victory on Japanese soil dnring the war in the Pacific, is reopening old wounds and causing concerns in Tokyo.

The tiny island — which is just eight kilometres (five miles) long and 4.5 kilometres (2.8 miles) wide - was the site of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II in the region.

In the month from the U.S. landing on Feb. 19 until March 16, 1945, about 21,000 Japanese soldiers and 6,821 U.S. marines died on Iwo Jima, which lies 1,250 kilometres (781 miles) south of Tokyo.

troops, including their com-mander, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, were incinerated or buried alive in the kilometres of underground tunnets criss-crossing the island. Iwo Jima later became a strategic staging post for the

B-29 bombers sent to attack

Many of the imperial

the Japanese mainland. The resistance to the death put up by Japanese forces on Iwo Jima was later used by the Americans as an argument for dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which they said sped up the war's end and cut

U.S. casualties. The battle was immortalised by a photograph and a statue in Washington of a group of U.S. marines planting the "Stars and Stripes" flag on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 28, 1945. But more recently, the scene was said to

have been a set-np. Fifty years on, the United States is planning a memorial ceremony on the island of March 14, ahead of September's commemoration in Hawaii of Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945.

Leagers iau to arrive for Burungi summit

BUJUMBURA (R) - A regional summit on central Africa's refugee crisis was cancelled Saturday because none of the invited government leaders showed up, a

senior U.N. official said. No head of state bad flown into Burundi's capital Bujumbura - still closed down by a general strike while the country searches for a new prime minister — by early Saturday and the U.N. official said the summit was off and no new date had been

fixed. "The initiative bas to come from within and, although the U.N. was willing to support the meeting, there has proved to be insufficient initiative," said Abdul Kabia, execurive director of the U.N. Assistance Mission In Rwanda (UNAMIR).

Diplomats bad earlier questioned the value of any regional presidential gather-ing on refugee crisis in the absence of Zairean President Mobutu Seso Seko, who also

vited.

missed a similar summit in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi in January.
The presidents of Rwanda,

Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania had also been in-Shooting broke out and hand grenades exploded in Bujumbura early Thursday

after Prime Minister Anatole

Kanyenkiko resigned. But no

was no more than normal in the city which has been under dusk-to-dawn curfew since December to curb ethnic feuding between the majority Hutus and rival Tutsis.

Central Africa's latest refugee crisis began last April when the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed on returning together to Rwanda from peace talks in Tanzania. Their plane was shot down as it came into

A three-day conference earlier this week in Burundi on the 3.8 million refugees and displaced people in the region agreed on a plan hailed by the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR as a key document.

casualties were reported and residents said the violence Treaty on global warming to be re-examined — maybe

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A month before a key climate treaty conference in Bertin. delegates from 130 countries failed to agree on how to prevent global warming in the next century.

A meeting of Intergovernmental Negoriating Committee that ended Friday was to lay the groundwork for the first formal review, beginning March 28 in Berlin, of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climare

Change as a first step.

This landmark treaty was agreed at the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and has been signed by 167 states and ratified by 120 of them. It requires developed countries to take actions aimed at capping greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.

"It's too late to accomplish this by the year 2000 but it's not too late to modify behaviour by 2010," said conference Chairman Raul Estrada-Oyuela of Argenti-

strengthened for the next But they were unable to reach consensus about whether current goals were 'adequate" or "inadequate," due to strong opposition from some oil-producing nations,

Instead the meeting agreed

that previous targets were a

"first step in meeting the

led by Kuwait.

Most signatories agreed

and believe targets have to be

objectives of the conven-

Said Michael Zammi Cutajar, the U.N. executive secretary for the committee: "We are inching ahead in the form of some rather tortuous language couched in the form of a new dance - the adequacy dance which goes step

that "present commitments are a step but only a first step and maybe some more steps will be taken in Berlin.' Carbon dioxide is chief among the so-called greenhouse gases that scientists, assembled by the United Nations, say are causing global

Delegates, he said, decided

planet with climate changes, raising the prospects of floods and drought. Greenhouse gases are likely to rise at least three per cent at the turn of the century, even if current worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide are trapped at pre-

warming and threatening the

sent levels, they say. The United States has the highest rate of emissions of 20 tons per person. India has the lowest, mainly because it has less industry. Spain and Switzerland, among the wealthy countries, have the least fumes per head.

To meet its goals, the Clin-

ton administration had put in

place a series of voluntary

programmes and incentive

schemes now threatened by

an opposition Republican

Its negotiators, however, were considered disruptive by the major environmental groups in bringing up obliga-tions of developing countries in sections of the treaty that applied only to developed na-

The United States was

joined by Canada, Australia

and New Zealand - but not the European Union - insisting developing states take on new commitments. The treaty was devised on the premise that industrial states, particularly Eastern and Western Europe, take the first steps to change con-

sumption patterns because they were the biggest pollu-These negotiations have widened the immense gap between what the world's scientists are saying must be done and what industrialised governments are prepared to do," said Bill Hare of Green-

peace International, One proposal by the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) called for industrialised countries to cut carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels by 20 per cent from 1990 levels by the year 2005. Bnt U.S. officials said they would oppose this scheme and the European

Union would also. Nevertheless, the suggestion of new commitments was alarming to John Schlaes, executive director of the industry-run Global Climate Coalition. He said his group objected to the fact new proposals were even considered when the previous targets bad not yet been evaluated.

Mr. Schlaes said he was apprehensive that eventually international taxes, regulations and standards would be accepted that would change the nature of the world eco-Meanwhile, scientists have found the ocean is helping to destroy a chemical that de-

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said Friday. The chemical, methyl bromide, accounts for as much as 10 per cent of the destruction of stratospheric ozone, which is the Earth's barrier to the

pletes ozone in the Earth's

atmosphere; the National

sun's ultraviolet light. The occean was believed to be the source of much of the methyl bromide in the atmosphere, but a study by the NOAA discovered much less of the chemical in the eastern Pacific Ocean than expected.

The study suggests the

ocean was destroying more

methyl bromide than it produced, the scientists said. "The results suggest that 30-40 per cent or the methyl bromide in the atmosphere is destroyed in the ocean and that, consequently, its lifetime in the atmosphere is 30-40 per cent shorter than previously believed," said James Butler, co-author of

the study.

Drunken-priest dead wrong at wedding

read out a funeral oration Agency (Rompres) said. his long-suffering congregater, the agency added.



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Paris Mayor and rightist presidential candidate Jacques Chirac heads toward the podium as his bodyguards contain the crowd gathered in Paris to hear him present his campaign platform entitled "France for all" (AFP photo)

campaign in full swing Chirac puts presidential card D'Estaing or ex-premier thinking, the programme sig-

PARIS (R) — France's presidential campaign has hit full swing with Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac unveiling an ambitious programme against frontrunner Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Opinion polls inject uncertainty into the race for the April 23-May 7 election to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Challenger Chirac, in rousing speech to 10,000 cheering supporters Saturday, cast himself as a man of change against Mr. Balla-

dur's "immobility." The conservative expremier mixed left with rightwing ideas, making employment his top priority and proposing to cut payroll taxes

Hailed by his supporters as bold and far-sighted, derided by opponents as wishful

to boost growth.

to create jobs and raise wages

nalled the start of an all-out offensive by Mr. Chirac, at his best in campaigning, against Mr. Balladur, a patrician ill-at-ease in electioneer-

The popular daily Le Parisien said Mr. Chirac wanted to appear as a leader and cast his fellow-Gaullist rival as a

mere manager. "France is going badly," Mr. Chirac said in a slap at Mr. Balladur, a former friend who likes to say that "France

is going better " after the deepest recession since World War II. Mr. Balladur has been consistently leading the race but opinion polls this week showed Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin closing in with Mr. Chirac remaining in third

A centrist candidate, either former President Valery GisRaymond Barre, could join the crowded field later this month, further splitting con-

Besides Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac, far-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen and anti-Maastricht campaigner Philippe De Villiers are vying for the conservative electorate. All focused their fire on

Mr. Chirac Saturday. Mr. Balladur's backers said he was proposing the same medicine as the prime minister. Gaullist Parliamentarian Jacques Baumel called his proposals "demagoguery" that could not be financed.

Le Pen accused Mr. Chirac, twice a prime minister, of peddling hope and doubted he would do in the future what he failed to do in the

The Socialist Party derided

Mr. Chirac's proposals as "a pathetic cocktail" and the left-wing daily Liberation said his recipe was to "do much more for much cheap-Le Parisien said Mr. Chir-

ac, by seeking to widen his appeal to the left, risked alienating conservatives and breaking up the right without winning over leftwingers. When you dig a bit, you

find the traditional conservative themes." Socialist former Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said of Mr. Chirac's programme. Liberation said Mr. Chir-

ac, who was twice beaten in presidential polls, had lost credibility by hesitating be-tween being " a Labourite and a Thatcherite." "He realised this ... and has found a solution: From now

same time," it said.

on, he will be both at the

Bosnian troops punch through rebel lines in Bihac

Milosevic, Kozyrev work on Croatia, Bosnia recognition

SARAJEVO (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic huddled with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Saturday to work out a response to pressure from big power mediators for Yugos-lav recognition of Croatia and Bosnia.

The move would increa the isolation of separatist Serbs in the two former Yngoslav republics as mediators try to ward off the threat of renewed fighting this spring. The recognition proposal is

at the ceotre of a new initiative by the five big powers the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany — which offers to lift all U.N. sanctions against rnmp Yugoslavia in return.

Diplomats did not expect any quick, clear-cut response from Mr. Milosevic who would meet strong resistance from nationalist opponents in Belgrade if he tried to sacrifice the Bosnian and Croatian

The Bosnian Serb leadership signalled Friday that it was considering a counter-proposal to Mr. Milosevic, urging him to press ahead instead with the "unification of all Serbs."

Radovan Karadzic, president of the self-proclaimed Serh Republic in Bosnia, appeared on local television with Milan Martic, president of the rebel Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) established on Croatian soil.

Mr. Kozyrev, whose gov-ernment is Mr. Milosevic's closest international ally, was due to spend the weekend

matters of substance between

discussing the conflict at a secluded hunting lodge in hes in Belgrade. We can no northern Serbia. longer count on Karadzic or anybody else," Mr. Kozyrev He stressed when he ar-

rived in Belgrade Friday that he would not try to strongarm Mr. Milosevie into recognition of Bosnia and roatia and added: "We will not rush, espe-"The reaction of the inter-

cially with the conclusions, now the contact group has a series of proposals at its dis-"None of them (the proposals) is final so far, but I

would like to know the position of Serbian and Yugoslav officials to the proposals," be said. Under the contact group plan Bosnia would be divided

into roughly equal parts be-tween the Bosnian Serb side and a Muslim-Croat Federa-Croatia would be recog-

nised within its pre-war borders, including the 30 per cent of its territory, the Kra-jina, now beld by Croatian

Mr. Milosevic has publicly given strong backing to the plan. Accepting the deal, however, means burying the nationalist goal of a greater Serbia and leaving himself open to charges of abandon-ing his ethnic kin in Bosnia and Krajina.

The Bosnian Serbs, holding 70 per cent of Bosnia, rejected the contact group proposals last August despite heavy pressure from Mr. Milosevic. He later punished the Bosnian Serb leadership with a military and economic

embargo, "Everybody has come to

realise that the key to peace

told reporters. "We have all lost illusions that we can count on any other forces except Serbia or Yugoslavia," he said.

national community to the support of President Milosevic and the Serbian leaders, of Yugoslavia, for the peace plan proposed by the contact group has been madequate and too weak.' Mr. Kozyrev went on, calling for the lifting of sanctions against Belgrade.

Big powers fear that a new and bigger war could break ont in spring when a current fragile truce in Bosnia is due to end and Croatia expels U.N. peacekeepers from buffer zones with its rebel Sertminority.

U.N. officials gave a pessi-mistic view Friday of fighting in Bosnia's Bihac enclave, saying it could spill into Croatia and trigger a wider

Despite a new year truce holding elsewhere in Bosnia, Muslim-led Bosnian government troops are defending Bihac in free-for-all fighting against two Serb armies, one from Bosnia and the other from Croatia, as well as local Muslim rebels.

Bosnian government forces have punched through Muslim rebel lines in the Bihac enclave, in the northwest of the country, pushing the enemy back by a couple of kilometres, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Saturday.

The government advance along part of the frontline, near the village of Podzvid, east of Velika Kladusa, in the north of the pocket, was one of several actions which, over the past days, has involved gains and losses by both sides, UNPROFOR spokes-man Lientenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

A total of 455 heavy weapon detonations were monitored in the area between Friday 8 a.m. and Saturday 8 a.m., nearly half of them after 4 p.m. Saturday, UNPROFOR said. Velika Kladusa itself is

held by Muslim rebel leader Fikret Abdic and his Serb allies from the Krajina region of neighbouring Croatia, who have been helping him not-ably with artillery support fire. Neither Abdic, nor the Krajina Serbs are party to a four-month nationwide truce which came into force at the beginning of the year in Bos-

Meanwhile, Mr. Abdic's forces Saturday prevented a convoy sent from Zagreb hy the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with 100 tonnes of food for government-held territory in Bihac enclave from passing beyond Velika Kladusa. Kris Janowski, spokesman

for the UNHCR bere, said the food was to be unloaded at a U.N. Bangladeshi camp in Velika Kladusa where it would be kept until it could be transported further south. The trucks would return to

Clinton: Arms sales is a valid policy instrument

WASHINGTON (Agenciese) - The Clinton administration announced approval Friday of a conventionalarms sales policy upholding the traditional view that such transfers are a legitimate tool of foreign policy. Arms control groups,

which favour strong restraints in U.S. weapons sales abroad, immediately assailed the announcement. President Bill Clinton's press secretary, Mike McCur-

ry, said the policy "suppors transfers that meet the continuing security needs of the United Stastes, its friends and allies." At the same time, it res-

traints arms transfers that "may be destabilising or threatening to regional peace and security," he said.

Mr. McCurry said the United States will "exercise unilateral restraint" in cases where "overriding national security or foreign policy interests require us to do so."

A White House fact sheet said that in determining ther merits of a proposed arms sale, the "impact on U.S. industry and the defence industrial base," will be taken

into account.

SEOUL (AFP) - A high-

ranking Seoul official Satur-

day rejected the idea of using

a non-South Korean private

firm as an intermediary to

break the deadlock over sup-

plying nuclear reactors to

director of the Korea Energy Development Organisation

(KEDO) said Seoul insisted

any contract must clearly spe-

cify that South Korea will be

Park Sung-Hoon, deputy

Arms Control Association said she was upset that such criteria are now part of the administration's stated policy. "It's always been an nnspoken part of policy," she said. "Now it's in writing, so it's a step backward."

The administration statement was released bonrs after the Commerce Department reported the United States suffered its worse merchandise trade deficit ever.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown opposes arms sales restraint, "You can't allow the whole defence industry to evaporate," he said last sum-

Joel Jobnson, a vice president at the Aerospace Industries Association, said, "in general we think this is a policy with which industry

will be quite comfortable." Mr. Johnson praised the administration as more supportive of American weapons sales ahroad than any of its predecessors.

The policy announcement disappointed David Eisenberg, senior research analyst at the liberal Centre for Defence Information, who said we have seen the conclusion of the battle for the heart and Sarah Walkling of the mind of Clinton, and the

intermediaries)," said Mr.

Park, the former head of the

secretariat to the South's uni-

"There has been no sug-

gestion from Washington that

could entail any change in

our position," Mr. Park told

AFP in an interview Satur-

He stressed that the

KEDO, an emerging consor-

-tium made np of Japan,

South Korea and still un-

fication minister.

victor is America's private sector.

Eric Newsom, of the State Department's Political-Military Affairs Bureau, told reporters that U.S. arms sales policy will not be driven by commercial considerations. "Our decisions will be

made fundamentally on

national security grounds," "Once a decision has been made on national security grounds to approve a particular transfer, then it is impor-tant that U.S. defence firms

receive the support of the Umited States government in seeking to make that sale." U.S., Poland sign defence

pact Meanwhile Defence Secretary William Perry and acting Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Milewski have signed an agreement pledging mutual protection of classi-

fied information and sensitive

technology. The accord signed Friday at the Pentagon marked a new phase in the defence relationship between the United States and Poland, a member of the Partnership

Korea, must be the signatory

of a contract with Pyongyang.

on press reports from

Washington that the United

States is considering a com-promise under which South

Korea builds the reactors but

under a U.S. brand name to

circumvent Pyongyang's

aversion to dealing with the

The Washington Times

Mr. Park was commenting

"It says that we will protect. each other's classified information and sensitive technology as our defence and military establishments work together," Mr. Perry said..

In a surprise move expected to anger Russia, the United States said Friday it has offered to sell advanced weapons such as F-16 fighters to Poland and at least nine other former Soviet Bloc

Washington has not sold high-tech arms to Eastern and Central European nations since the cold war ended, but has signed defence cooperation agreements with them and is courting closer ties through NATO's Partnership for Peace.

Mr. Perry said at a Pentagon session with Mr. Milewsksi that the offer of high-tech weaponry had been made to Poland and a number of Central European coun-

He was not more specific. but administration officials. who asked not to be identified, told reuters the United States will also consider arms requests on "a case-by-case

probably over such an idea.

Observers here said U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State

Winston Lord could bring a

compromise proposal when

he arrives here Wednesday

on a four-day visit to iron out

differences over implementa-

tion of the Geneva accord.

The agreement calls for the

North to freeze its nuclear

programme, suspected of de-

veloping weapons. in return

Britain, Ireland near accord on N. Ireland proposal DUBLIN (R) - British and were ones of language and presentation. "If you are looking for some crisis, there Irish ministers said on Satur-

day they had nearly comis none," he said. pleted complex new North-But Northern Ireland's ern Ireland peace proposals which the province's main Protestant unionist politipolitical party rejects outcians reiterated at the weekend that they would not take part in any all-party "There are no significant

us at this stage," Irish Fore-ign Minister Dick Spring said to their nationalist foes who seek the unification of Ireafter almost five hours of talks with British Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Hardline Protestant leader Ian Paisley said his Democra-Maybew. The two ministers said offitic Unionist Party would not be in conta the weekend about the so-

they have been drafting for two years and expected to put the draft to their respective governments for approval next week. Mr. Spring said no further meetings between the two ministers were planned and

called framework document

we expect to be in a position to put it to our governments

Mr. Mayhew hinted that the only matters to be settled

said he expected the bigger Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) to do likewise. "We will not be at any

table at which the framework

document is set ont as part of

talks on the document be-

an agenda," Mr. Paisley told BBC Radio. Neither Mr. Spring nor Mr. Mayhew would be drawn into speculation about a possible boycott by unionists, who want Northern Ireland

threatens their cherished British sovereignty. The document is known to propose that Britain and Ire-

land drop rival constitutional claims to Northern Ireland to put the onns on the 60 pt. cent Protestant majority and Catholic minority to work out a new future in peace. cause they fear it will pander. It will also propose setting up cross-border institutions to manage economic affairs

but unionists fear this will

propel them into Dublin's orbit and eventually erode their Britishness. British and Irish leaders have tried to blunt the anger

of unionists by saying that the document is only a discussion paper that will require approval by referendum and by government. Mr. Mayhew said there

had been "a lot of understandable speculation, and anxiety" about the document, the fruit of more than two years complex Anglo-Irish negotiation.

But he appealed to unionists, who have threatened to

John Major's creaking government if the plans confirm the's worst fears, not to prethe document. inionists believe the plan

bring down Prime Minister

amounts to a self-out to Irisb nationalists and to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its political arm Sinn Fein which seek the reunification of Ireland. The IRA declared a ceasefire last September. Mr. Major wrote to the unionists saying he bad no

plans to end the 300-year-old ties between the province and London. The letter was published overnight.

"I fully support the union. It is in no sense my aim to see it dismantled," he said.

"The papers we put forward... will be intended to recognise the interests of both sections of the community. If they represented only one point of view they of conrse would not achieve their purpose of encouraging further discussion by all participants and progress towards agreement.

East Europe lacks infrastructure to join EU

Pakistan vows to get tough with militants

BRUSSELS (R) — Eastern European countries, queuing eagerly to become members of the European Union, lack the basic institutions and infrastructure to join the EU's border-free market, the

European Commission says. "In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe these institutional infrastructures are often lacking," an internal document, written by commission officials re-

MANILA (Agencies) — Pakistani Prime Minister Be-

nazir Bhuno, pledging to

help in fighting against inter-

national terrorism, said

Saturday she would not allow

her country to be used as a

sponsible for external policy and internal trade, says.

to stay British and fear that

the framework document

The document, obtained by Reuters, says efforts by the Eastern European countries to adopt EU rules would be an empty exercise if the organisational and institational structures which must underpin the measures are absent.

The note is intended to brief the 20 commissioners on progress in drafting a policy paper setting out how Eastern Europe can adapt to the EII market.

Poland and Hungary have already applied to join the EU, the Czech Republic plans to apply this year and senior officials in .Slovakia and Romania predicted this week that they could also seek memberships as early as

Although the EU has made no promises on when it might open its doors to Eastern Europe, it has begun the long process of thinking about how and when they can be admitted and what needs to be done.

The policy paper is expected to appear in May in time for discussion by EU leaders at their Cannes summit on June 26-27.

quoted an official of U.S. for two light water reactors, economic assistance and a the reactor builder. named countries and de-Westinghouse as saying that "It is quite disturbing to the State Department had see press reports on such signed to supply two light move toward better ties with ideas (using private firms as water reactors to North contacted the company.

South.

Seoul issues another warning over reactors deal

MOSCOW (R) - President Boris Yeltsin Saturday ordered the publication of top-secret archive documents which will shed light on the controversial history of the former Soviet Union's early nuclear programme.

Mr. Yelisin signed a decree ordering the preparation and publication of an official collection of archive papers dating up to 1954, said a statement issued by the Presidential Press Office. The statement did not say

when the publication would

appear. Nor did it make clear

national nuclear industry and

whether all or only some of the documents would be dis-"The decree aims at reconstructing an objective picture of the emergence of the

the history of the creation of nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union," the statement said. The Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb in 1949. four years after the United

States. It was the first to test a hydrogen bomb in 1953. It is widely believed in the West that the Soviet Union. keen to get a nuclear bomb as a counterhalance to the U.S. arsenal, simply stole the basic technology.

A couple from the United States, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were convicted in 1951 of plotting to give the Soviets secret information about the U.S. atomic bumb. They were sent to the electric chair in 1953. Over decades Kremlin au-

thorities denied any allega-

tions about the foreign origin

of their atomic and hydrogen bombs - the pride of Soviet science and technology. But the dispute over the issue re-emerged after a series of revelations by a for-

mer Soviet official. Pavel Sudoplatov, a top officer in the Soviet KGB secret police, published a book in the United States last year alleging that four famous Western scientists had knowingly leaked nuclear secrets to Moscow.

Mr. Sudoplatov, who claims to have been in charge of spying on the U.S. atomic bomb project in the mid-1940s, said J. Robert Oppenheimer, Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard had leaked the information through moles planted in the Mannattan Project that developed the A-bomb. His claims were roundly dismissed by Western ex-

breaking with longstanding practice, issued a denial the scientists handed over nuclear weapons data. But later Russian National

Archive Director Sergei Mironenko told the Moscow News weekly newspaper that secret Stalin-era archives supported Mr. Sudoplatov's allegations. Mr. Mironenko said in a

formation was contained in

recently-opened archives of

all secret police reports to

dictator Josef Stalin from

1944 to 1953.

sanctuary for extremists. She said the government would soon crack down oo militants at home. Yeltsin orders disclosure of Soviet A-bomb history "We can help reduce international terrorism by cooperating closely with other countries vis-a-vis terrorists who

are wanted," Ms. Bhutto said in a news conference before returning home from a two-Even Russia's spy chiefs, day visit to Manila.

She said the receot arrest in Islamabad of Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, a top suspect

New York, was proof of her government's resolve to help curb terrorism. Mr. Yousef, who was also newspaper interview published last June that the in-

is a threat to Pakistan." in the 1993 bombing of the U.S. World Trade Centre in

linked to an alleged plot to blow up U.S. airlines operating in the Asia-Pacific region. was extradited to the United States last week where he now faces trial.

Yousef was not a Pakistani national. On other wanted extrem-

Ms. Bhutto said Mr.

ists in Pakistan, she said: "We will certainly look for them rather than provide them refuge." "Within Pakistan itself, we

are very keen to start regulating different institutions so that we can identify where militancy springs from," Ms. Bhutto said. Sine said that during civil disturbance in Pakistan last

training. 'We don't like that, so we have now begun information gathering and our next step will be to try and shot down any such cell wherever they operate because we feel this

year, cells started operating

secretly, undergoing militant

Ms. Bbotto was asked whether she had heard of reports linking Pakistanis to the Abu Sayyaf fundamental-ist group biamed for a spate of killings and kidnappings in the southern Philippines.

"We have not received any such intimations so I assume this information is unsubstantiated," she said.

But she said her government would take action "if anybody misuses his Pakistani statehood in violating the laws of any other country."

Ms. Bhutto Saturday slammed Western countries for global environmental pollution and said efforts to solve the problem should not sacrifice the growth of developing nations.

In a keynote address to the Asia-Pacific Conference on Climate Change, Ms. Bhut-to said that while developing nations were not "blameless;" rich countries should do the hulk of the work in cleaning up the environment in their own backyards and through international cooperation. "It would only be fair that

those who have primarily polluted the environment take on a major responsibility for cleaning it up" she said and urged developed nations to apply their successful technologies to our noxious problems.

"We cannot allow the developed world's century-long abuse of our common environment to be the excuse for another century of economic abuse and social inequi-" she said.

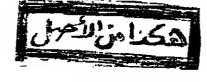
"Often with the natural resources ripped from their colonial conquests, the developed world has rapidly in-

dustrialised without plan or thought of consequence to the environmental impact of their own action," she told the conference. The three-day conference gathered some 160 scientists

and policy-makers from the Asia-Pacific region to formu-late a common stand ahead of an international conference in Berlin starting March 28. the First Conference of Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Ms. Bhutto said develop-

ing countries produced le than a quarter of the global greenhouse gas emissions, but were "paying a disproportionate price for the excesses" of the industrialised countries of Europe and the Americas. Ms. Bbutto said any agree-

ment regulating the emission of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere — which was proposed during the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Developments, known as the Earth Summit - must not be used to stall the growth of developing countries, pointing out that many of these emerging economies are from



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Guarding against slide

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher may have succeeded in containing the fallout from the recent call by two New York Senators — Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Republican Alfonse D'Amato - for the transfer of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, when he cautioned Friday against any precipitous action on the city that might interfere with the peace process. But in reality, this latest stance by the Clinton administration would not allay completely Arab fears that a U.S. decision to locate its embassy in Jerusalem may be in the cards somewhere along the line.

For starters, President Bill Clinton went on record as favouring such a transfer when he told Jewish leaders as far back as 1992 that he believed in the principle of moving the embassy to Jerusalem and that what was holding him back on making the necessary decision was the fear that the step would interfere with the peace process. No wonder then that Christopher's assurances to a House of Representatives sub-committee Friday on Jerusalem fell short of an iron-clad commitment against such a move some time in the future. The secretary of state indicated to the House of Representatives that only for the time being will the U.S. do nothing that would disrupt the delicate peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians but he would not rule out such a posture once these negotiations are concluded.

We all know the implications of any possible erosion in Washington's position on East Jerusalam on the regional and international levels. One wrong move by the U.S. and the whole peace effort could collapse. That is why the Arab side and the international community should be wary of any shift in U.S. intentions on this most sensitive issue. Even though the final status of Jerusalem, which effectively means the final status of East Jerusalem, would be decided in the final stages of the Israel-Palestinian talks, the Arab side must prepare the groundwork for this most difficult round of negotiations as of now and not leave it only to the Palestinian side to cope with it.

The stakes in Jerusalem are formidable for the Arab, Muslim and Christian worlds. Unless there is a united front from all these quarters, the Palestinian side could find itself in too weak a position to restore what is rightfully an Arab right.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL from occupied Jordanian territories was a step in the right direction, but Israel has a long way to go in order to convince the Arab masses that it is truly and sincerely oriented towards a comprehensive peace, said Ahmad Arafat, a writer in Al Ra'i daily on Saturday. The Arabs expect Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights. hope to see the thousands of Arab detainees freed, the Oslo and Cairo agreements implemented in full and Israel's nuclear programmes eliminated, said the writer. There can be no peace if Israel continues to stockpile mass destruction weapons that threaten the existence of the Arab World's present and future, said the writer. By refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other international peace and withdraw from Arab lands, and by pursuing oppressive measures against the Palestinians, said the writer, israel is proviong to the world that it is not interested in peace, stability and security in the Middle

A WRITER is 13 Distour expressed regret that successive governments in Jordan have failed to deal effectively with the intibioms of unemployment and poverty. Abdullah Al Knatib said that while officials continue to give statements about plans to deal with these chronic issues, poverty and unemployment tend to increase at serious levels. In my view, said the writer, the successive governments keep postponing any serious action to deal with the situation and hope that by increasing the allocations for the National Aid Fund, which distributes limited financial aid to the poor. they can contain the problems. He said that the government is doing nothing to stem the rate in population growth, which now stands at 3.6 per cent annually and continues to issue licences to private universities and community colleges that turn out job-seekers and join the army of the unemployed. The many seminars, lectures and statements about plans and allocations for the National Aid Fund have come to naught, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The economic recession: What are the causes?

THE JORDANIAN public complains of an economic recession. The recession started at mid-1993, following the Oslo accord over Gaza and Jericho, and gained momentum in 1994 in a climate of uncertainty which accompanied the feeling that some sort of peace is coming soon. but no one

Observers are looking for something to place the responsibility for the recession on. To recognise the 'culprit" will obviously belp in formulating the best solution to end this recession

The most frequently pointed out reasons are the bad relations with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and the tight monetary policy adopted by the Central Bank, which drew from the market a substantial part of the liquidity through its certificates of deposit (CDs), and raised interest rates by three percentage points, which increased the cost of funds, and reduced demand on credit, consumption and investment.

Bad relations with the PNA could not bave been the reason behind the recession. The recent friendly visit paid by PNA President Yasser Arafat to Amman, and the signing of seven agreements for cooperation in economic, cultural, banking, monetary and administrative affairs, failed to do the trick, and perhaps worsened the situation, as indicated by the behaviour of prices in Amman stock

Before we evaluate the effects of the monetary policy, it is necessary to examine the so-called recession and determine its nature, extent and indicators.

Recession advocates point out the lower prices of shares in the Amman stock exchange and the lower volume of trade activities in the commodity market. Most of the complaints are raised by traders whose sales are said to be way below their expectations, and speculators whose

portfolios of shares lost value compared to the peak achieved in mid-1993.

As far as share prices are coocerned, we find that current average yield is as low as 2 per cent, compared to a normal return of 4 per cent, and that the price multiple is over 20

times compared to a normal price earning ratio of 15. Such ratios suggest that the current share prices are on the high side. Any important rise in the share price index will worseo the discrepancy by raising the multiple above its already high level and lowering the yield below its already low level. The fact that prices of shares soared for two years until mid-1993 does not mean that the sbarp rise must be followed by antoher rise. The market needs a period of time to absorb the 46 per cent jump which took place during the 1991-1993 period. Further improvement in share prices should wait for a real improvement of

companies' profitability at some time in the future. The complaints of traders may be justified, but they stem from the out-of-proportion increase in their numbers. The cake is being distributed among many more shopkeepers. For example, shops in Wash Al Tel Street more than doubled, the sbare of each shopkeeper must drop even if overall sales were growing. The two pharmacies in the street in 1990 become 10 in 1994. It is only natural that sales of each pharmacy must decline, which does not necessarily

mean that people are consuming less medicine.

Aside from shares and trade, all other indicators reflect a bealthy economy. Exports grew in 1994 by 20 per cent. imports maintained the same high level, balance of trade improved, the budget posted a surplus, capital formation rose, subscriptions in new shares in the primary market set a record, unemployment declined by three percentage points, the JD maintained its stability, foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank are stronger, and, finally, the economy achieved a high growth rate in a climate of low

Those who blame the monetary policy claim that the Central Bank suffocated the market by sucking liquidity from the banks. It is true that the Central Bank attracted ID 278 million through the sale of its CDs, but domestic liquidity rose in 1994 by JD 359.7 million, of which JD 276.6 million are in local currency. This amounts to net increase in liquidity of 8 per cent.

Interest rate on the JD rose to around 8.5 per cent response to an international trend. The Central Bank cannot afford not to respond to higher interest rate on other currencies, especially the dollar, because otherwise capital flight may follow. The higher interest rate triggered by the bank influenced interest payable on deposits but bardly altered the interest rate on credit. The margin between interest payable and interest receivable narrowed due to more competition among banks. Depositors benefit ted but borrowers did not suffer.

It was claimed that bank credit is too tight, but the

statistics show that debt of the private sector to banks increased in 1994 by a staggering amount of JD 453.7. million, a growth of 19.6 per cent, which is too high and, if

anything, should be reduced, not increased.

Money supply, which increased by 9.3 per cent in 1993; increased by a further 10.1 per cent in 1994, which is more. than sufficient to accommodate growth. Had the Central Bank allowed more liquidity, the result would be inflation. and higher cost of living, which would eat up growth.

It is quite easy to activate the market by artificial means through expansionary policies. But this can create a false prosperity in the short run, followed by a set-back, just like drinking alcobol, which can cause a pleasant feeling for the moment, followed by a bangover.

The roots of the Palestinian economic crisis

By Emma Murphy

AFTER the signing of the Oslo accords in September 1993, there was born a consensus among all parties concerned that only a rapid improvement in the economic situation of the occupied territories could sustain popular Palestinian support for the deal. It was assumed that if external parties supplied the \$2.4bn promised at the World Bank donors' conference in October 1993, then the ground would be set for Israel and the PLO to work out the details of new economic relations to replace those which had previously been imposed by Israel and which had led to the deliberate underdevelopment of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A Protocol on Economic Relations was indeed signed in Paris in April 1994, and was heralded as the first step in a joint effort develop the full potential of the Palestinian economy. Like the pledges of rapid donor aid, however, the new economic relationship has proved to be full of false promise and to be based on similar failures to address the root cause of economic crisis in the territories.

With Palestinian living standards still falling and with insufficient finance coming in, prospects for sustainable economic development are dim. International donors and Palestinian leaders may beat their breasts about the variety of possible reasons, but in essence they come down to just two: the misconception that economic and political development can run on pa-rallel but essentially separate tracks, and the failure of the international community to hold Israel to its legal, economic and moral

Cammitted ta defend Israeli interests

At a most basic level, without the political concessions necessary from Israel to make the Palestine National Authority (PNA) a truly national, representative and empowered body. the Palestinians have been left to negotiate an economic arrangement from a position in which they have simply no cards to play. The Protocol on Economic Relations denies the PNA competence to determine its own economic strategy and policy. committing it first and foremost to defending Israeli economic interests through the terms of the customs union. This allows Israel to determine which goods the Palestinians may import from third countries, preventing the Palestinian economy from developing a role as transit agent for products that are more competitive than Israel's own and maintaining a Palestinian market for Israeli products.

A high level of purchase tax has been imposed on the Palestinians, increasing the cost of their own products for both export and

domestic consumption. Israeli import standards have been imposed on the new aothority, again preventing cheap imports that may be more competitive than Israeli products. The PNA bas accepted quotas on the sale of certain poultry, dairy and agricultural produce to Israel. While these will be phased out by 1998, it is already becoming clear that Israel is preparing to import these goods from elsewhere, rather than from the West Bank and Gaza.

The concessions from

Israel are in reality minor. While Palestinians are free to export produce to Israel (with the exception of the goods mentioned above), they have relatively little to offer in the absence of significant domestic industry and in view of the restrictions on their ability to act as a conduit for third-party finished goods. They can determine customs duties and taxes only for goods essential to their economic development programme (such as capital equipment and wood) and on vebicle imports. Fuel prices are subject to an Israeli condition that they should not be more than 15 per ceot less than those in Israel itself to protect the domestic energy market. No allowances bave been made for the high levels of government subsidy of Israeli production, nor bas the vital issue of the return of Palestinian resources (such as land, labour and mineral deposits) been addressed.

The vital clause that commits Israel to refraining from placing obstacles in the way of the free movement of Palestinian labour has already been invalidated by both the closures imposed by Israel and its importing of over 50,000 foreign labourers from Eastern Europe and the Far East since March. Moreover, the Israeli government has subsidised (at the rate of \$10 per day) Israeli workers who take jobs formerly performed by Palestinians. Prime Minister Rabin explicitly stated on Israel Radio on April 10 that the intention is to break the dependence on and replace Pales inian cheap labour. Yet with the Palestinian labour iorce growing by up to 15,000 a vear, access to the Israeli labour market is critically important.

realm, the Palestinians were given the ability to raise revenues through taxes and to administer budget for its expenditure. The potential tax base, however, is unlikely to be sufficient to provide the necessary health, eoucation, welfare, investment and administrative services that are needed for a great many years. (It should be remembered that this is due, not least, to the results of Israeli over-taxing for nearly 30 years, none of the fruits of which are 10 be returned). The Palestinians are allowed sufficient financial freedom to encourage

Finally, in the financial

and facilitate the establishment of financial institutions to provide investment credit and banking services, but they are denied the right to issue a currency. and operate a central bank to freely determine indirect taxes. Israel has managed to pass the burden of responsibility for investment to the PNA and the private sector and gained the legitimacy and access to Palestinian savings that it has always sought for its own financial institutions to operate profitably in the territories. These institutions, notably Bank Leumi, are now able to tap into the increased financial flows which come from a link with Jordanian, Saudi, Egyptian and Palestinian capital.

In effect, the terms of the Paris protocol were determined by Israel. In return for conceding almost the entire cost of occupation (including service provi-sion) but very little by way of real power or decisionmaking. Israel bas legitimised a revamped version of the old economic relations. This time, Palestinian economic growth is encouraged but more to revitalise the purchasing power of a still dependent and controlled economy than to allow sustainable, genuine and autonomous development. At the level of donor aid.

donors are understandably reluctant to transfer funds without proper accountability on the part of the PNA. Yet the authority itself, as long as democratic, constitutional elections are not the foundation of its existence, is an essentially unaccountable body. Democratically elected political institutions are by definition accountable to their electorate and must be financially largely transparent. Donors bave expected the PNA to act as a politi-cally developed national institution even as the Israelis have denied it the means to become such a body. The only a marginal, municipal form of elections that would make the PNA a localised administrative servicing agency rather than a guarantor of political and human rights. If donors are truly interested in economic development, then it is in their interests to ensure that donated aid is not simply used to prop up an unaccountable, unelected and undeveloped mini-regime by either Mr. Arafat (which they noticeably worry about) or Israel (which they

The necessity for political development

The international donor community has failed to understand that, unless the arrangements forced on the Palestinians in Paris are substantially altered, no amount of project aid will stimulate economic development in the occupied territories. Without polinical pressure on Israel to make meaningful rather than cosmetic economic

concessions, the Palestinians will be unable to generate business confidence or to attract investment. The final status talks will be critical in this regard. If private Palestinian diaspora capital is to be a major pillar of the new economy, then that capital must bave confidence that the resources of Palestine (its land, water and refugee labour) and its commercial capital city will be returned. Moreover, there must be evidence that Palestinian investment will benefit a Palestinian economy, not simply be sipboned off by the remodelled but basically familiar impositions of

So far, the evidence bas been that, as Israel dictates the economic terms of peace, so it is reaping the economic rewards. The Cairo agreement absolves it of any need to recompense the Palestinians for the 27 tion: unbelievably the PNA bas been made to take upon itself the responsibility of paying compensation to parties aggrieved by Israeli actions in the occupied territories since 1967.

Instead, Israel bas lannched a campaign for new and better trading terms with Europe, the dismantling of the Arab boycott and the development of regional cooperation — all of which appear to be within its grasp. With all past sins apparently forgiven and forgotten, no country seeks to make Israel accountable for its own reneging on the terms and spirit of Oslo, as the PNA is held so acutely accountable. Even the illegal construction of 11,000 new bousing units in occupied territory, pre-empting the final status talks and contrary to is commitments, does not earn Israel even a

It is a fundamental flaw in the current peace process that "economic development" has come to mean simply a temporary improvement in living standards that will sustain a one-sided and unjust peace agreement for the convenience of all parties except the Palestinians themselves.

Genuine, sustainable economic development requires the political development and empowerment of the Palesnine National Authority, a concession which Israel is still unwilling to make. The international community, by lending its weight to the Palestinian efforts to change Israeli policy, can do more to achieve real progress at both political and economic levels than through all its censure of the Palestinian leaderships or its handwringing over the poverty and suffering of the Palesti-

Emma Murphy is a re search fellow at Durham University. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

nian people.

Europeans worry over U.S. vote on foreign policy

By Nicholas Doughty Reuter

LONDON - With trans-Atlantic ties already under strain, European allies are worried by growing signs that the United States could ditch its self-appointed role as benevolent global superpower in favour of more selfisb aims.

A resolution passed on Thursday by the U.S. House of Representatives would cut or even ebminate contributions to U.N. peacekeeping, limit presidential powers in foreign. and defence policy and push NATO towards early

It is unlikely to become law since President Bill Clinton is expected to veto the Republican-backed bill, which has yet to pass the Senate, if necessary. But France sharply criti-

dised the move. European diplomats said the vote was a worrying indication of what could become U.S. policy if the Republicans, wbo won control of the Congress in elections last year, win the presidential elections in 1996.
'Taking aim at the

U.N.... and denying it the means to do its job is seriously derailing what little order exists in the world today," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told a news conference.

"I think it's a real sbame and a real step backwards for international law and world organisation."

One diplomat in a major European capital said of the vote: "It was a sign of things to come and there is a lot of concern. It doesn't mean the United States will become isolationist - just that it will become a lot more selfisb and less ready to compromise with allies and international institu-

The vote marked the first major occasion that Congress has flexed its muscles on foreign policy since it took office at the start of this year. Other proposals

international lending are

The United States has: been committed to working through international organisations and alliances since the end of World War II 50. years ago, despite much grumbling and while reserving the right to take un-ilateral action in defence of its interests.

also under discussion.

The Clinton administration bas reaffirmed thosecommittments and, faced with a Congress bostile tocurrent foreign policy, is: worried that the United States may become a crip-

pled superpower.

Mr. Clinton has called the bill approved by the House on Thursday an "unacceptable assault on his executive authority." U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defence Secretary William Perry lined up on Thursday to

Mr. Christopber said it was "a threat to this and every future president's anthority to protect the security of the United States."
Diplomats say the bill,

which has yet to pass the Senate, would almost certainly .encourage other countries to follow the U.S. lead and cut funding for badly needed U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world.

The bill pushes for rapid |"? NATO expansion to Eastern Europe, something Washington's partners in the alliance are not ready to accept at a time when relations with Russia are at a very delicate stage.
It is already a critical time

in trans-Atlantic relations, with the European security picture confused and unst-

The United States has slasbed its troop strength in Europe following the end of the cold war and has recently been involved in bitter arguments with its allies over Bosnia and trade. Russia's future is uncer-

tain after the Chechenya

LETTERS

Letters must be written

To the Editor:

IN HIS letter to the editor. "Why people write letters, (Jordan Times, Feb. 15), Husam Deranieb indicated that Jordanians should not write to the Jordan Times about certain issues. But why shouldn't they? Afterall, the Jordan Times, and I quote "welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle." Furthermore, it is not only to show others that they can write in English and to have their names published that people write. One would be surprised as to how many Jordanians in the condensation of the Jordanians in general, whether Jordan University students. government public relation officers, or others, actually read and are genuinely interested in the Jordan Times.

If Mr. Deranieh is so concerned about giving the wrong impression to the foreign guests about our country, he should start by encouraging other fellow Jordanians to relay different aspects of our Jordanian community, rather than asking that than asking that we hide the truth from our foreign guests. By exposing different aspects of our society, foreigners will understand us more and must be better prepared to make friends paid.

Hiba Dajani,

In search

Featur

PolyGram has a whose enthusia Roger Trapp

NO MATTER what the magement thinkers say businesses of the future being dependent on the knowledge of their employees, creativity is a probem for many companies. They say they value it, yet have hiring policies that are unlikely to encourage it. Or they attempt to package it up and preserve it like some rare jewel in an obscure corner of the organisation rather than spreading it

Very few go as far as polyGram, the international entertainment company, and state that "creativity is our business." Of course. our business. the company that controls such renowned record labels as A&M. Island, Motown. Verve and Deutsthe Grammophon is in a creative business. But it is also a large corporation acnve all over the world and the two do not always go hand in hand — even when the company concemed is operating in a field requiring flair and in-One of the ways in which

PolyGram deals with this problem is to split itself into small units. For this reason, the labels it owns are not just imprints designed to play on feelings of nostalgia, they are separate companies within the larger organisation, each with its own style and approach. As Gareth Jones, senior vicepresident responsible for human resources at Poly-Gram, says: "We're foreve: fighting the size effect by creating small labels. Often a label might fail, but it might just be the one that signs the next U2.

The company is so convinced of the sucess of this policy - which is carried out to a certain degree in other conglomerates, with Virigin said to act indepenently within EMI, for instance — that it is imitating

PNA condem

(Continued from page 1)

in real danger it said, caliing on the "international community... to act immediately to save the peace

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(Continued fram page 1) to sign the treaty can take mighac in several forms," he gus This might take place by car proposing to extend the trea-

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Roger Trapp

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cember. "I am not keen to have the Talibans as part of the mechanism, but I want them to be in contact with the mechanism," observed Mr. Mestiri.

But he said that Mr. Rabbani was insisting on the direct participation of the Talibans in this mechanism.

whose enthusiasm amounts to obsession

There is also, of course, a sound business case for this approach. Since the record industry tends to run in cycles, it pays to have what amounts to a portfolio of interests. As one label suffers from a certain type of music declining in popular-ity, another will gain as a new craze starts. The problem with all this

this as it moves into film

In search of creative oddballs

diversity and independence is that it is bard to see what bolds the various parts together. In Mr. Jones's view there are two answers to this. The first, he says, is boring and relates to the financial function. The second sounds meh trendier and is based upon the belief that there are "certain core beliefs or values" that provide the cement. Mr. Jones, a former Lon-

don Business School academie bfore taking on his current role 18 months ago, is anxious to stress that he is not suggesting that creativity is part of Poly-Gram mission statement. Rather, he is saying the "creativity is our business" line is merely saying that being creative is a good

At a time when many companies still treat their more imaginative employees as difficult artists or troublesome school ehildren, this might appear different. "Right across PolyGram's activities we're looking for ways of being creative," be adds.

But while the visitors to any one of the company's many offices around the world will not find a set dress code or even an establisbed working day, this does not mean that employees just do what they want when they want.
"You have to be careful

that people don't use being creative as an excuse for incompetence. You cannot bave people saying, 'I'm sorry I wasn't at the meeting, I was being creative', or 'I am sorry I'm two hours

late, I'm creative'." "We want people run ning labels who, even if they are highly creative, know something about how to manage people. We are trying to cherish the notion of creativity while making sure people have the right mix of abilities."

This means that most executives must bave "some awareness" of the financial issues that govern the decision they make. Although an academic by background, Mr. Jones has re-sisted the temptation to deal with this through business school courses and instead opted to do it within the company. "Clearly, there's a role for training grounded very much in the business," he says of the courses that typically deal with such matters as the impact of giving artists too many royalty points.
But not all employees are

unfamiliar with conventional business issues. Because of its high international profile, PolyGram attract hundreds of applicants from the world's leading business schools — in particular, the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, alma mater of the notorious Wall Street insider dealer, Michael Milken, as well as PolyGram's chief executive, Alain Levy. But few are successful.

"I'm looking for people who are slightly odd," says Mr. Jones. "Those with a predictable career path are prima facie not the type we are looking for."

Conversely, somebody who has had an unusual education, spanning more than one continent, say, and offers some special insight into a country in which the company is planning to set up, might well be taken on - even if there is no clear role for that person

PolyGram has a penchant for the kind of people "You want to take risks because the upside is much more important than the downside. And sometimes that's difficult because you then run into financial controls," he adds.

It is the sort of haphazard recruitment technique that has been used by other creanive businesses, such as the noted Landon-based design company, Imagination. Its founder, Gary Withers, talks of hiring people he likes the look of regardless of their background and whether he has a particular job for them.

But that is in a relatively small organisation. Mr. Jones is seeking to bring the same sort of approach to a global enterprise. And one of his problems is knowing about talented individuals taken on in — or marking waves in — far-flung territories. But achieving this without imposing the sort of bureaucracy that would probably be rejected in a record company is difficult. 'It's got to be relatively informal. Otherwise, it won't happen. If you ask them to fill in a questiona-naire it would kill it," he

Pressed for a guiding characertistic in those hired, Mr. Jones opts for "infectious enthusiasm, because that's what makes people stay up late and want to go and listen to bands," He accepts this can

amount to obsessiveness and working with obsessive people can be difficult. As a consultant, he has encountered similarly focused types in the pharmaceuticals industry, but has seen their single-mindedness lead to the development of new drugs.

Such people can be resisant to development because they are fulfilled in their current roles. Mr. Jones says he knows people dealing with obscure parts of the company's jazz catalogue who would not wish to do another job. But those who have the ability to move beyond that enthuasiasm and find ways of selling the products to peo-



ple other than "trainspotters" like themselves have the potential to move on.

If it is a challenge to achieve the right blend of individuals, it is also hard to ensure the various parts of the PolyGram organisation fit into some unified whole.

Mr. Jones describes himself as being caught in a cleft stick. "It would be depressing if every Poly-

Gram operation was the same, but it is difficult when they are all different," he

On the other hand, it is "much easier to systemise a

highly creative organisation than to make a highly bureaucrative organisation

The Independent

the killing of a Palesonian by PNA condemns attacks Israeli troops in the camp

(Continued from page 1)

in real danger," it said, call-ing on the "international community... to act immediately to save the peace

Mr. Rabin said this week that Israel has recently detained some 2,500 Palestinians on suspicion of involvement with the militants, bringing the number of detainees near 6,000.

According to the Sept. 13, 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, Israel was to have withdrawn troops from Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank last summer. The agreement called for general elections after-wards in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel blames the delays on concern for the safety of Jewish settlers on the West Bank in the wake of the anacks. and wants Mr. Arafat to do more to reign in the militants. But Mr. Arafat faces critic-

(Continued from page 1)

to sign the treaty can take

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told JTV.

sm from other quarters for harsh rule in the areas becontrols.

In a statement faxed to the Associated Press, several U.S.-based human rights groups denounced the arrest Wednesday of lawyer Raji Sourani, a Gaza human tights activist. He was released a day later without charges.

The statement, from the Robert Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights, Human Rights Wateh/Middle East of Washington and the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, called on Mr. Arafat to "refrain from acts of inrimidation and interference directed at human rights de-

fenders.' Earlier this week, Human Rights Watch of New York accused Mr. Arafat's govern-ment in a report of often acting in an "arbitrary and repressive fashion."

In the Alfawar refugee camp near Hebron, meanwhile, about 200 Palesninians marched Saturday to protest

ty for a limited period; there

might be proposals to add

guarantees to the treaty; we

could hold off our vote; we

three days ago. They shouted slogans demanding revenge but dispersed without inci-

nians, one seriously, Arab sources said. U.S. State Department

good result."

"Clearly they recognised each other's needs and are moving in the right direction to address those needs," Ms. Shelly said.

address Israel's security con-cerns," the acting spokes-woman said. The parties also agreed to intensity their

dent. In the nearby village of Daharia, Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palesti-

acting spokeswoman Christine Shelly said Friday it appears that the meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat produced "a very

The Israelis' announce-

ment of a partial lifting of the elosure of Israel's border with Gaza and the West Bank "is clearly in response to what they consider serious initial steps by the Palestinians to negonations in an effort to reach overall agreement, she

noted. be a withdrawal from the treaty. All these issues will be

discussed among others within the framework of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement in order to have a unified (Arab) stand during the March 17 meeting," the minister added.

Taliban demand snags plan

"This might take place by can express reservations. Thus I do not think there will

U.S. to speed up debt write-off

(Continued from page 1)

mie law across the country. They are now believed to control one third of Afghan

The U.N. envoy said that although the Talibans have declared their support for the U.N. peace process, they still refuse to join the so-called "mechanism," referring to the body which will handle the transfer of power from Mr. Rabbani, whose twoyear term expired last De-

which observers speculated would lead to more delays in the transfer of power, already

seven weeks overdue. In Manila, the Philippines, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has no favourites in the current fighting in Afghanistan and only hopes for a settlement which can return political stability to the country.

Although Pakistan denies any role in the Afghan fighting, Talibans are generally viewed favourably by conservative Islamie governments because of its appeal for unity and national reconstruction after three years of eivil conflict after Soviet troops withdrew from the

mountainous country. "Since the new government was elected in Afghanistan in October 1993, we've adopted a very firm 'handsoff policy," Ms. Bhuno told

reporters.
"We have no favourite in Afghanistan, and we do not want to interfere in Afghanistan and influence this powersharing formula whatsoever," she added. "And therefore, we have backed the U.N. effort,"

Iran daily

(Continued from page 12)

radical opposition ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections in Iran.

The head of the ministry's press department, Ali Akbar Ashari, accused Jahan-e-Islam of having "demagogic tendencies instead of raising reasonable criticism."

Jahan-e-Islam, founded in 1991, was the first daily to be banned in Iran in several

Somalia

(Continued from page 12) It's provocative. If the Americans leave the port and airport area and move onto the streets of Mogadishu, then Somalis will attack them," he

added. "The Americans say they have no hidden agenda, but we don't know that. It seems a very suspicious operation to us. We would like to know if any other nations taking part in the operation have secret weapons."

"I am shocked that they came down to use such equipment against human beings. It will create bitter enmity which will leave scars that will never heal," Mr. Afrah

The troops of the six nations taking part in Operation United Shield are meanwhile starting to take over the port and airport.

Half a dozen of the 18 warships sent by the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Pakistan and Malaysia moved elose in Saturday as helicopters ferried equipment to the complex and marines came ashore from landing craft to test the choppy surf.

New coils of razor-wire are going up, ditches are being dug, and sand barriers are being built as tar-trucks resurface the sandy roads around the sprawling complex. These are being turned into slalom courses, with razor-wire barricades on alternate sides of the roads every few metres.

Twenty-five tanks leased to the United Nations by the United States were lined up at the airport Saturday await-

ing transport home.

The port and airport complex will be sealed once the 2,600 U.S. and 500 lialian marines come ashore, so in principle the U.S. troops should not have to use their new crowd-control weapons. as all Somalis will be on the other side of the fence by

then. The perimeter stretches for kilometres however, and is difficult to secure.

Major clan fighting is widely expected once the foreign troops leave, with persistent but unverifiable reports circulating of heavily armed piek-up trueks massing in. strategie areas.

Mr. Afrah pointed out that you can't expect proper security without institutions of government."

Yeltsin woos West but fails to convince Russians

By Timothy Heritage Reuter

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin has gone some way to soothing the West by oledging to shake up Russia's army and continue other reforms, but has done little to win back liberal allies who have descried him over Chechenya.

Mr. Yeltsin's state of the nation address, in effect setting out plans for the rest of his presidency, won muted approve to clasting the army over the campaign in rebel Chechenya and yowing to seek financial stabilisation.

Above all, the 64-yearold president eased fears about his mental and physical health simply by looking firm on his feet and delivering Thursday's speech forcefully.

But his failure to take even bolder steps over the bungled military campaign in Chechenya and a lack of clarity over economic reforms left politicians at home and abroad asking for

more. "There was nothing in the speech that the West could complain about. But people would have liked him to be harder over Chechenya in particular and more details of economic reform," a Western diplomat in Moscow said.

Mr. Yeltsin's one-hour address to parliament was seen as a chance to win back some of the popularity he has lost since he sent troops to rein in separatist Chechenva Dee. 11 and to try to end rifts in the upper echelons of power.

Andranik Migranyan, a political adviser who helped prepare the speech, said Mr. Yeltsin had addressed these problems and hoped to end them quickly. "Power is no: consoli-

dated right now. There are many conflicts in the president's administration and in the Duma (lower house of parliament) which hinder adequate economie, social and international policy." Mr. Migranyan said.

"I think these problems can be solved," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin promised major military reforms. vowed to stick to economic reforms, pledged to tackle crime and said he would make the state more fair

and open. But the kind of slogans which earlier won him wide popular support bore no early fruit.

Yegor Gaidar, a liberal leader and former prime minister who has fiercely criticised the Chechenva campaign, was one of many politicians who questioned Mr. Yelisin's will or ability to carry out his promises.

"in the next few weeks we will see if the president meant a real change in his course or if those were just words." he said. Others said they had

heard nothing new in Mr. Yelisin's words and that he sounded out of touch with reality.
"We've heard it all before. It meant nothing."

another former ally and once the finance minister. "The main thing is that there was no attempt to determine who is guilty in this crisis of power," Mr.

said Boris Evodorov.

Fyodorov said. Mr. Yelisin, whose once soaring popularity has sunk to record lows and whose grip on power is in question, avoided the more radical promises of economic reforms he made in earlier years and expressed no regret for sending troops

He also named no scapegous for the bungled Chechenya campaign or for the faltering economic reforms which have failed to tame inflation - put by the Finance Ministry at almost 18 per cent in January alone.

to Chechenya.

This meant another reprieve for Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. commander of the Charnenya venture, but no necessarily for one. "I cannot rule out his

replacement by another

general in the near future."

Mr. Migranyan said. Alexander Shokhin, a former economics minister, said he expected govern-



Boris Yeltsin

ment changes too. "I think changes must come because this would be the most tangible sign of the president's message being carried out." he said.

Some politicians said the speech was the start of Mr. Yeltsin's campaign for another five-year term, pointing out that he said presidential elections would go ahead as planned next year. Mr. Yeltsin has not yet said if he will run for president again.

"He tried to present himself as the father of the people. He reached out to patriotic feelings." a diplomat said.

Western leaders gave a muted initial reaction. In Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) hailed the speech as a sign that Russia would push on towards democracy.

Rudon Seners, deputy parliamentary leader for the CDU and its Christian Social Union (CSU) sister

party, said: "The CDU/ CSU faction welcome the fact that President Yeltsin wants to advance the democratic process in Russia and that he has clearly distanced himself from antidemocratic forces with his rejection of "dictatotial idcas.

Western diplomats in Moscow said their governments were likely to welcome the broad outlines of

the speech. U.S. officials in Washington were glad Mr. Yeltsin seemed in control and that he pledged faith in economic reforms, but expressed some disappointment over his failure to take further steps over Chechenya.

"Most important from out standpoint would have been something truly positive on Chechenya like (talk about) a political settlement... We didn't hear anything, really, about that," one U.S. official told Reu-

"It was not a problem of commission but omission."

D: Sai

Mohammad Batayneh. etor-general of the Jor-lovestment Corporation C), said that 15 foreign npanies had contacted the oration to invest in exng and new industrial pro-s. He said one company nested to buy 35 per cent te in the cement factories ile other companies ered to buy a 15 per cent ity in the potash plant, Batavneh noted that imillion of deals in the ash firm last year. The JIC of expects foreign invest-in to jump to JD150 milar the Amman Financial rket (APM) this year. eign investment did not eed JD 4.2 million last rout of 2D 150 million proved by the government ause of administrative tlenecks and bureaucratic ays. Mr. Batavneh said. est at the AFM last year ounted to JD 90 million with increased enquiries. volume will definitely rise

ID 150 million this year

The Arab Orient Comfor Financial and Ecohestments, set up as whic spareholding com-ny on Jan. 22, 1995, is ing 25 million shares (at per charel for public emption. The company. istered as a holding comwith a JD 10 million ital, aims at establishing for managing affiliated npanies as well as investin other firms and acquirother interests. Main iders of the company are: Social Security Corporaa (JD 500,000), the Arab ak (JD 500,000), the using Bank (JD 500,000). Cairo Amman Bank (JD 1.000). Ali Mohammad ssein Abul Haj (JD (000). Abdul Khaleq hammad Hussein Abul (ID 300,000). Rabih Al en (ID 300,000). Khalil Talhouni (JD 250,000). mal Al Shaer (JD (900). Abdul Mohsen Al tian (ID 250,000). Arah den Investment Bank (JD 0.000 L and A1 mouniveh Commercial ablishment (JD 200,000). number of founders nds at 95 including those Intioned (Al Ra'i) coording to Khaldoun Hassan. president of the

man Chamber of Industhe industrial sector emearn a total of around 37 million a year. Direct indirect taxes and fees by the industrial sector liale Coffers are estimated D 314 million in 1994. Mr. Hassan said that during past four years a total of new companies ened the private sector bring-lm JD 900 million in capitand creating 35,000 emhment opportunities. The operating at Sahab In-anal Estate have a comled capital of ID 331 milnand employ 12,421 worknevery JD 30,000 investin provides one job opporinv (A) Rail. The Arab Bridge Mari-

ned by the governments of rdan. Egypt and Iraq. passes the \$6 million capitof the company, will be three equally between three equany became Countries. ABMC Manager Mohamd Al Manager Monant Dalaheeh said the Mpany decided to conit of JD 1 million with prussing expected next bruary The company paported a record 1.3 milpassengers last year (Al

Further strength of U.S. dollar is likely

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, eb. 9, 1995 until Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1995 is provided by Vaser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch -

undamental View: The dollar has shown surprising weak-ess in recent days, reflecting growing sentiment that further ed tightening will be limited and ongoing concerns about fexico's economic crisis. Recent reports that Congress will pen a full debate on the Clinton administration's rescue ackage suggest that Mexico's crisis could weigh on the ollar for some time to come, especially if the Fed decides to efrain from tightening monetary policy at its March 28 OMC meeting as appears increasingly possible. The finan-ial impact of Japan's earthquake could also eventually turn ut to be a negative for the dollar if it helps push np mg-term rates in Japan and keeps more Japanese capital at

echnical View: Last week, dollar weakness against the ominant Deutschemark, Japanese yen, and Swiss frane ffset streogth versus the British pound and both the ustralian and Canadian dollars. As a result, the U.S. dollar idex feli 0.5 per cent; this was its first decline in three

Although sentiment for the dollar is generally at or near versold readings, medium term momentum is coming off its lost overbought levels in 12 months. However, short term romentum still has an upward hias and is only in neutral rritory. This, plus the fact that February-March has pically been a strong time of the year for the greenback iggests that further strength is likely. However, once short rm momentum and seasonal considerations begin to turn gainst the oollar, renewed - and potentially important eakness is likely to set in. Support is at 88.90, then the ctober low at 84.91. Important resistance remains in the

Japanese yen

andamental View: The dollar continues to languish against then in 1961, out that still may imply an excess accumula-

We recently estimated that the cumulative foreign ex-lange losses again has suffered due to dollar weakness the the early 1970s may now amount to roughly \$400 then. That may delp account for the apparently low spetite of Japanese investors for dollar securities despite e rise in U.S. interest rates over the last year. A more cent concern is that Japan's earthquake, which caused an timated \$100 billion in damage, will lead to upward essure on Japan's long-term interest rates. That would nd to keep Japanese money at home, putting upward

For now, we continue to believe that further Fed threning will eventually give the dollar a modest boost rainst the ven over the next six months or so. But the ng-term case for ven strength based on Japan's persistent ade surpluses and anemic demand for dollar assets remains tact. We continue to expect the yen to reach JPY/USD 95

chnical View: The Japanese yen gained 0.9 per cent versus te and is moving away from its recent oversold readings to neutral territory. Benchmark support remains at 100.80-11.80 Y/U.S.\$ and, with both short and medium term omentum beginning to move higher, that support area ems to have survived another challenge. If so, this would iggest that the foundation is being laid for another test of e 96-97 area (and possibly beyond).

Deutschemark

indamental View: The Deutschemark has strengthened to e DM/USD 1.508 level reflecting concerns that further Fed thening will be fairly limited. Mexico's economic crisis so continues to weigh upon the dollar, especially since it iw appears that Congressional leaders will allow a full floor bate in May on the Clinton administration's financial

rescue plan. While that seems unlikely to reverse the rescue plan, it suggests that the crisis could weigh upon the dollar for some time to come.

Our currency forecast for an eventual strengthening of the dollar against the Deutschemark continues to assume that the Fed will tighten policy by enough that market partici-pants will not criticise it for being "behind the curve" in controlling inflation.

But Germany is also expected to begin tightening monetary policy in the second half of this year and should push short-term interest rates up by 100-to-150 basis points over the next year. Accordingly, we project only modest appreciation of the dollar to the DM/USD 1.80-to-1.85 range over the next six-to-twelve months.

Technical View: The Deutschemark rallied 0.5 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. The foundation for a raily back to the recent currency highs at 1.505 DM/U.S.\$ and higher is in place. There is nearby support at 1.538, but the

1.58 area remains benchmark support at 1.556, not the 1.58 area remains benchmark support.

Against the yen, the D-mark fell 1.0 per cent last week. Although short term momentum is toppy, medium term oscillators still bave an upward bias. Resistance exists at 66.60, with treodline support below 64.00.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound held steady against the dollar around USD/GBP 1.56 but plummeted against the DM, dropping to a new low of DM/GBP 2.35. The pound's weakness was attributed to two factors. First, the DM streogthened across the board on market fears that trade union militancy in Germany could force the Bundeshank to tighten rates earlier than it would like to. Second, the release of U.K.'s January producer price inflation data. Output prices were up by 3.4 per cent, over the year, while input prices were up 11.6 per cent.

Both numbers were well above market expectations, reinforcing expectations that rates in U.K. have to rise further during the course of the year. Our U.K. economists feel that there may be two further U.K. hikes this year. Political uncertainty over the future of John Major's govern-

ment also continues to hesiege the pound.

Our U.K. analysts expect Major will ward off threats by regaining the support of the Ulster Unionists and the Euro-sceptic rebels, so the prohability of general elections in the U.K. this year is low. Widening U.K.-German interest differentials and sound U.K. fundamentals are expected to drive the pound toward our 12-month forecast of DM/GBP

Technical View: The British pound fell 0.1 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feh. 10. Sentiment is best described as near overbonght. Both sbort and medium term momentum have a downward bias, although the latter is showing signs of hottoming. Thus, an important bottom may not be all that far away... A rally decisively through 1.597-1.602 U.S.\$/f could well signal an eventual challenge of the 1994 high at \$1.638. Nearby support is \$1.553-1.544. Against the DM, sterling fell 1.0 per cent last week. Both

short and medium term momentum are weak and the August low at 2.378 has already been penetrated; next support is likely below 2.33. Resistance exists at 2.48, then 2.466.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc strengthened against the dollar to trade around S.F./USD 1.28, recouping last week's losses. The franc was steady against the Deutschemark around S.F./DM 0.845. The inflation differential between Germany and Switzerland continues to be in favour of the franc. Consumer prices rose 0.7 per cent in January, with the bulk of the increase, resulting from the introduction of the VAT. The initial impact of the VAT on prices was at the low end of expectations, a positive for the franc. The interest differential is narrowing in favour of the DM with Swiss rates declining relative to Germany. The interest differential should further move in favour of the DM, once the Bundesbank starts to hike rates, later this year.

Our outlook is for franc depreciation and we expect the franc to trade at S.F./USD 1.38 and DM/USD 0.88 in

Technical View: The Swiss franc gaine 1.0 per cent versus the greenback during the week ended Feh. 10, making it the strongest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment is near overbought. Sbort term momentum is bottoming and medium term oscillators have already bottomed.

It would appear, therefore, that -- sentiment considerations notwithstanding - the currency is positioned to make

another rally toward benchmark resistance at 1.23-1.28 S.F./U.S.S. Nearby support exists at 1.30. The DM cross fell 0.5 per cent last week, and medium term momentum is deteriorating. This, plus the recent test of .848-.850, implies an upcoming test nearby support .837 and quite possibly even a test of benchmark suport at .828.

Canadian dollar

Fundamental View: The Canadian dollar weakened against the U.S.S dropping back over the CS/U.S\$ 1.40 level, after a brief rally last week which saw the CS trading at a six-week high of CS/U.S.\$ 1.395. All focus now is on the budget situation in Canada. The federal budget is due to be released situation in Canada. later in this month (most likely on Feb. 28), and in a break with tradition, some of the provinces are expected to announce their budgets, ahead of the federal budget. While Finance Minister Paul Martin bas commented the new budget will cut the deficit enough to meet their self-imposed target of 3 per ceot of GDP by FY 1996/97, the direction in which the CS will move will depend upon explicit deficit reduction measures embodded in the budget and the credence the market attaches to the government's resolve to carry out the measures.

Among the provincial budgets, our Canadian analyst Karim Basta expects six of the 10 provinces to run balanced hudgets or surpluses. That should be a positive for the C3. The CS should also benefit from a general recovery of the U.S.\$ and the U.S. bond market.

We look for the CS to trade near CS/U.S.\$ 1.38 in three-mooths, C\$/U.S.\$ 1.34 in six-months and C\$/U.S.\$ 1.28 in twelve months.

Technical View: The Canadian dollar fell 0.1 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. The recent strength has caused sentiment to move out of oversold territory into the neutral zone. The currency appears to have completed its best rally since September as short term momentum has is overbought and prices have moved lower in recent days. At the same time, oversold medium term momentum appears to have

Thus, the bottom-building process continues, and further near term weakness may serve to set the stage for a more serious run towards 1.37-1.40 CS/U.S.\$ and possibly higher. Important support still exists just beyond 1.42, then \$1.44-

Australian dollar

Fundamental View: The Australian dollar continues to be weak, trading below the U.S.\$/A\$ 0.75 level, around U.S.\$/A\$ 0.745. The weakness in the A\$ is due to a combination of factors: A softer monetary policy stance indicated by Prime Minister Keating, delay in fiscal tightening until the May 9 presentation of the 1995-96 budget, a significant fall in commodity prices, and the record trade

Commodity prices, one of the most significant positive factors for the AS have fallen from 5½ year highs. The trade deficit widened 17 per cent in December to a record \$2.39 billion, and the government revised its estimate for the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30 from \$18 billion to \$26 billion, nearly 6 per cent of GNP.

The widening current account deficit continues to be a big negative for the AS. Further, given Australia's huge cumulative current account deficit, rising global interest rates add to interest burdens and further pressure the AS.

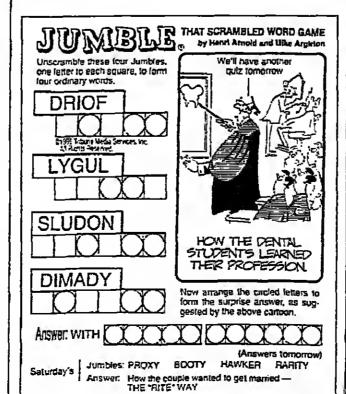
Given all these negatives, we have revised our forecast for the A5, lowering our 3-month forecast to U.S.S/A3 0.74. For now, our 12-month forecast continues to U.S.S/AS 0.75, hut the risk on the downside.

Technical View: The Australian dollar declined 0.8 per cent against the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 10, and was the weakest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Put/call ratios are still classified as neutral. The currency has retraced a bit more than three-quarters of its October-December rally. Sbort term oscillators remain weak, but are oversold.

Due to a telecommunication problem, the Jordan Times was unable to publish this weekly report. which usually appears every Saturday, in yesterday's issue.

THE BETIER HALF By Glasbergen

"When I ask 'How was your day?" you're supposed to say 'Okay, I guess. You're not supposed to complain about your job all night."



Mandela launches forum to transform economy

IOHANNESBURG (R) -President Nelson Mandela Saturday launched a forum for government, labour and business aimed at negotiating consensus on changes to South Africa's economy and labour market.

The new National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) is a statutory negotiating body which is intended to play a key role in "seeking cooperation and making agreements between the social actors on social and economic policy." It will seek consensus on policy and consider all significant changes to laws before they go before parliament.

The organisation aims "to promote economic growth. increased participation in economic decision-making and social equity in South Africa on a sustained hasis" and Mr. Mandela hailed it as a milestone "of towering sig-nificance" in the country's transition from apartheid.

"Opposing camps have transformed themselves into partners, articulating diffe-rent and often contradictory interests, but united in pur-suit of common goals," he said. "Today we are building on the foundations of that emerging national consensus to work together for a hetter life for South Africans... it is a point of towering significance.

The launch came a day after Mr. Mandela opened parliament with a state-ofthe-nation address in which he moved to dampen unrealistic hopes of disadvantaged blacks for rapid prosperity in post-apartheid South Africa. On Saturday, the president said NEDLAC was one of the structures which would help the country in its quest

for economic growth. "The launch of NEDLAC represents a milestone in a transition from an illegitimate system manifesting the worst forms of oppression to the most democratic expression of the popular will and unity." Mr. Mandela said.

Business South Africa (BSA) President Dave Brink said in a speech at the launch that NEDLAC was an important move to tackle South Africa's unemployment and uncompetitiveness in international markets. "It is our duty with this

partnership to ensure husi-ness and the economy flourish in such a way that we may see an absolute explosion of job opportunities in South Africa." he said. Organisers told Reuters

the council would start work with a hudget of five million rand (\$1.4 million) from the government for the year from April 1. NEDLAC executive direc-

tor Jayendra Naidoo said the council's function was to ensure cooperation and consensus decision-making on economic, labour and social poli-"This has to be a serious

negotiating body, not just a show," he said.

Meanwhile South Africa has asked to align itself with the Lome aid and trade convention between the European Union (EU) and 70 former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific the ACP's president said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You bave to be particularly careful in motion today. Arrange your transportation more intelligently and travel with greater ease and speed in the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You feel like going on a spending spree because you are worried, but this is the worldly part of your thinking so think objectively instead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take care that you do not make some unkind remarks to others today simply because you're worried about something else. Add to your present goodwill and you'll enjoy

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you think others have slighted or annoyed you, say nothing and return in kind instead of complaining. Finish boring tasks and you will have more time for pleasure later this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try not to argue with a good friend today just because you are frustrated. Find some better way to get ahead socially.

VIRGO; (August 22 to September 22) Do not jeopardise your good name, today, in any way, either in business or in personal life. See that your credit is in good standing too and that there are no marks against you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Find the right outlets through which to express yourself in the future, hut make certain you get the light information today. Follow those who are clever and can be

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It might be best not to express certain views you have thought, even though you know them to be right. Wait for a better time: it's isn't today. Do more studying

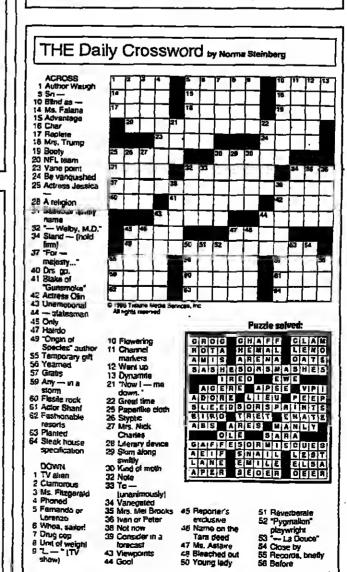
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get the data you have oeglected from associates so that your joint projects run more smoothly instead of being critical of them. Try to eojoy this evening

and go out. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be enthusiastic about doing the tasks that are ahead of you and keep out of trouble you would otherwise get ioto. Be a elever, dynamic person.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are very anxious today to bave a good time, but make sure it is not terribly expensive. or it may make you sad later. Do not associate with undependable person or you will regret it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have more faith in how your relatives are handling some home affairs instead of thinking how much better you could do it on your own. Be sure to clear the way of anything standing in the way of your advancement.

Birthstone of Fehruary: Amethyst - Onyx



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Overview

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e yen despite seven interest rate hikes by the Federal eserve over the last year and 12-month interest rate spreads at now favour the dollar by more than 430 hasis points. gan's current account surplus in shrinking and is expected
the under fine billion this year compared to about \$125 in a deligible landings by Japan's exporters relative to what span's financial institutions wish to acquire.

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er the next twelve months.

e U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 10. The ntiment background for the currency bas begun to deterio-

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A review

expects JD 150m of foreign investment this year

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** Mobammad Batayneh. director-general of the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), said that 15 foreign companies had contacted the corporation to invest in existing and new industrial projects. He said one company requested to huy 35 per cent stake in the cement factories while other companies offered to buy a 15 per cent equity in the potash plant. Mr. Batayneh noted that foreign companies had made JD 2 million of deals in the potash firm last year. The JIC chief expects foreign invest-ment to jump to JD150 million at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) this year. Foreign investment did not exceed JD 4.2 million last year out of JD 150 million approved by the government because of administrative bottlenecks and bureaucratic delays, Mr. Batayneh said. He said the applications to invest at the AFM last year amounted to JD 90 million but, with increased enquiries, the volume will definitely rise to JD 150 million this year (Al Aswaq).

☆☆ The Arab Orient Company for Financial and Economic Investments, set up as a public shareholding com-pany on Jan. 22, 1995, is floating 2.5 million shares (at JD 1 per share) for public subscription. The company, registered as a holding company with a JD 10 million capital, aims at establishing and/or managing affiliated companies as well as investing in other firms and acquiring other interests. Main founders of the company are: The Social Security Corporation (JD 500,000), the Arab Bank (JD 500,000), the Housing Bank (JD 500,000). the Cairo Amman Bank (JD 500,000), Ali Mohammad Hussein Abul Haj (JD 350,000), Abdul Khaleq Mohammad Hussein Abul Haj (JD 300,000), Rabib Al Hai (JD 300.000), Rabih Al Masri (JD 300,000), Khalil Al Talhouni (JD 250,000), Kamal Al Shaer (JD 250,000). Abdul Mohsen Al Qattan (JD 250,000), Arab Jordan Investment Bank (JD 200,000) and Al Ma'mouniyeh Commercial Establishment (JD 200,000). The number of founders stands at 95 including those mentioned (Al Ra'i).

Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the industrial sector employs about 110,000 workers who earn a total of around JD 237 million a year. Direct and indirect taxes and fees paid by the industrial sector to state coffers are estimated at JD 314 million in 1994. Mr. Abu Hassan said that during the past four years a total of 17,500 new companies entered the private sector bring-ing in JD 900 million in capital and creating 35,000 employment opportunities. The firms operating at Sahab Industrial Estate have a combined capital of JD 331 million and employ 12,421 workers. As such, it can be said that every JD 30,000 investment provides one job opportunity (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The Arab Bridge Maritime company (ABMC). owned by the governments of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, made a \$10.6 million profit last year. The profit, which surpasses the \$6 million capital of the company, will be distributed equally between the three countries. ABMC General Manager Mohammad Al Dalabeeh said the company decided to construct buildings in Aqaba at a cost of JD 1 million with completion expected next February. The company transported a record 1.3 million passengers last year (Al Dustour).

praised as good commodity pact

GENEVA (R) — A new global robher pact reached in 10 days of negotiations in Geneva showed the industry believed in the agreement's price-stabilising function, speakers have told the final assembly.

"At a time that the concept of market stabilisation has lost favour with governments, this approach remains valid and beneficial," John Cuddy, the officer in charge of commodities at the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),

UNCTAD sponsored the 39-nation meeting which drew up the successor pact to two previous world ruhber deals. These have broadly achieved market stabilisation

over the past 14 years. The latest pact is the world's only remaining commodity agreement. Cocoa and coffee agreements no longer influence prices as this approach became who still able in the 1980s but they still provide their industries with a discussion forum.

Some analysts believe the upswing in commodities prices in 1994 may yet again reinforce the need to bridge the gap in raw materials industries between producers

Analysts said rubber consumers had insisted on a Geneva agreement because price rallies to their highest levels since the Korean war had left them worried about

long-term trends. Mr. Cuddy said the new pact would have "positive effects directly and indirectly on consumers and producers of natural rubber worl-

Direct stabilisation would be achieved through buffer stock operations by the Inter-national Natural Rubber Organisation which operates

the agreements, he said. Indirectly, the pact would promote confidence among growers that they could expect reasonable returns and it would reassure manufacturers of a certain buying price

"Although market prices are exceptionally high, experience shows they can fail as fast as they have risen."
Mr. Cuddy said.

Chairman Peter Lai said the conclusion of the pact showed the delegates, representing more than 90 per cent of the world rubber industry. had faith in the agreement.

He urged them to ratify the draft agreement as soon as possible. It may enter into force in late 1996 as soon as around 75 per cent of world exporters and importers have

The current pact expires at the end of 1995 and the market will be left to its own devices in the interim period.

Enropean Union spokesman Daniel Le Gargasson said the deal illustrated that the relationship between rubber producers and consumers was at its best in years.

"The EU will do its utmost to ratify this package as soon as possible and trusts others will do likewise," he said.

Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank

	New York	New York
Correcty		
	Ter 76/2/95	Ther 17/2345
Starting found*	1.5785	1.5825
Deutsche Mark	1.4490	1.4210
Swites France	1.2603	1.2325
French Franc		
	5.1200	5.1540
Заринеяс Усн	97.41	97.30
Boropesa Carreny Unit	1.2618	1.7672

••	Condition	Opening	e	5:F0	-	CHI
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Corrency	1 M311	3 MITIS	6 MINS	12 MT/E
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.00	6128	6.21
Sterling Found	6,31	4.50	6.81	7.56
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.21	5.00	5.43
Swiss Frame .	3.37	3.62	3.21	4.78
French Franc	5.31	5,56	5.93	6.43
Jupanese Yen	2.06	2.06	. 2.12	2.25
European Corrency Unit	5.62	5.94	6.25	6.81

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Metal	USDVOz	1D/C=*	Micial	USDVOz	JD/Gm
Cold	372.25	7.50	Silver	4.79	0.111

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0.5547	0.5573
0.1347	0.1354
0.7139	0.7175
0.4179	0.4200
. 22424	747444
0.0432	0.0434
*****	044444
	0.6956 · 1.0996 0.4674 0.5547 0.1347 0.7139 0.4179 >>>>>

Other Currentles	Date: 18/2/1993		
Саттелеу	big	Offer	
Bekraini Dinar	1.4320	1,2490	
Cebanase Lira*	0.041259	0.042830	
Saudi Riyal	0.1250	0.1866	
Kawaki Disar	2.3250	2.3560	
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.14202	
Egyptian Found	9.1900	0.2100	
Oweni Riyei	1.1960	7,4130	
UAE Dirham	0.1887	0.1933	
Greek Dracking*	0.2135	0.3175	
Cyprius Peund	1.4243	1.5330	

Rubber agreement Analysts predict \$1 oil price rise by June

LONDON (R) — World oil ter," Mr. Drollas said. prices are likely to rise by at least a dollar a barrel by June despite an exceptionally mild northern winter which has kept a cap on them so far this year, oil analysts and traders

Global economic growth, stable, not higher, ontput from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and low stocks should buoy prices ahead of

the summer driving season.
"Prices will rise in the second quarter by about \$1.30 (a barrel) over the average for the first quarter," said economist Leo Drollas of the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES).

COMPANY'S NAME

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MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
THE BOUSING BANK
JORDAN KUWALT BANK

BUST ELMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.

SECTOR

INSORANCE SECTOR

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JORDAN FETROLEUM REFINARY THE INDOSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL

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NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

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Arab Paper Converting & Trading
Intermediate Petro-Chemical Indostries
Jordan Rockwool Industries
Jordan Indostries 6 Hatch/Jihoo

NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE HANDFACTURING JORDAN SULPHO-CHERICALS ARAH CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS KANTHER INVESTMENT

INCOSTRIAL SECTOS

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

UNIVERSAL MODERN INDOSTRIES

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES

THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES THE ARAB POTASH/NEW

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

GRANO TOTAL

"But the rise will be less than last year when prices rocketed by an average of \$2 a barrel in the second quar-

Traditionally oil prices take a dip during March, April and May as consumption dips after the peakdemand winter season as refiners begin their spring maintenance closures which

the past three years price dips have come earlier in the first quarter as the market gets ahead of itself. "The pattern was that prices in the second quarter weakened as physical de-mand weakened and refineries went into turnaround,"

said Fergus Macleod, analyst

benchmark, has traded in a

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at Natwest Securities. "But in the last three years prices have bottomed earlier as people have anticipated spring.' North Sea Brent Blend crude oil, the international

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BARK CRITER AMPAN - SEMEISANI TELEPEORE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/02/1995

\$17.50 a barrel so far this year, a sharp improvement on a year ago when prices hit

a five-year low of \$12.90. Robust economic growth should belp boost world oil demand year on year by about one million b/d, analysts cut crude oil needs. But over

> According to latest projec-tions from the International Energy Agency global oil de-mand in 1995 will rise to 69.2 million b/d compared with 68.2 million b/d in 1994.

OECD and non-OECD demand in the second quarter are forecast to increase by 600,000 b/d each year-onyear to 39.3 million b/d and 28.1 million b/d, respectively. But stock levels for crude

oil and refined products are seen as the key to a secondquarter price rise, analysts

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

4.310 4.220

67575

197484

16377

16377

3744 11054

337671

440 14589 59309

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CLOSING

INDEX NUMBER: 160.55 CHANGE : +0.59

2.430 2.500

INDEX NUMBER: 136.79 CHANGE : +0.33

2.440 2.450 3.640 3.680

INDEX NUMBER: 133.6 CHARGE : +1.16

1.540 1.440 3.410

2.570 2.810 8.000

960 6.700 .770 1.410 2.470 1.400 .760 4.820

4.200

2.050

1.570 1.490 3.430 2.390 .970 12.000

34.500 3.010 2.850 5.080 9.580 4.000 4.730 5.040 2.720

2.580 2.630 1.010 6.920 810 1.460 2.520 1.420 .800 4.850

1.760 4.290

growth this year will come in the second quarter from a strong stockbuild component of about 1.6 million b/d."

said the CGES's Drollas. Brimming inventories for heating fuel are countered by low stocks of U.S. crude oil and other petroleum pro-ducts, which are down four per cent year-on-year, according to weekly statistics from the American Pet-

roleum Institute. "The focus is on gasoline. It is the motor of (crude) demand and refiner profitability in the spring and sum-mer," said Natwest's Mac-leod. "Directional movement (on oil prices) is upwards through until the late sum-

Natwest Securities forecasts Brent crude oil to reach \$19 before the end of the

Spring maintenance at 'Most of the demand European refineries will take out about 23 per cent of Europe's near 12 million b/d of refining capacity in the second quarter.

But analyst Mehdi Varzi at Kleinwort Benson Research says the major factor to any price rise will be current cuts in refinery processing rates and a recovery in refining

But low stocks do not necessarily mean much higher prices.

"The question is how strong and how sustainable the recovery will be. Low stocks by themselves do not mean higher crude prices."

Mr. Varzi said. "Every year refiners try to run inventories down to lower minimum prudent levels. It's all part of trying to be more efficient and increase working capital.

Report dismissed that GCC will not participate in M.E. development bank

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The State Department acting spokesman Christine Shelly on Friday dismissed a New York Times report that suggested rather strongly that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has chosen not to participate in the creation of the Middle East regional development bank.

"It does not reflect what our understanding of the position of the parties is," Ms. Shelly said. "It's still our view that there is a strong and growing regional consensus for a Middle East develop-

"There has been agreement as well that we should explore the details of how best to structure a bank and to make it most effective," she said.

Some of the Gulf countries have raised questions about the proposed bank.

"They have raised them before, so that's not anything new. But certainly as a bottom line, it's still very much our understanding that they're open to this idea," Ms. Shelly said.

IATA: World airlines on course for profit

after reporting healthy gains cards, in passenger and freight traffic for 1994, the International ported Air Transport Association (IATA) has said. The organisation said pas-

senger traffic on international scheduled services rose eight per cent for the year, outstripping the capacity increase by three percentage

The passenger load factor for the year was 68 per cent, two points up on the 1993

Freight traffic showed a 14 per cent increase.

For Your Stay in Amman

GENEVA (R) - World air- lations director William Gaillines remain on course to post lard said a 1994 net profit of their first profit in five years around \$1 billion was on the

> IATA airlines have not reported a net profit on inter-national scheduled services since 1989. From 1990 to 1993, the recession years, losses totalled \$15.6 billion.

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Mr. Gaillard said a combination of two factors could pull them out of the red: Economic upturn and widespread restructuring of lossmaking airlines to lower

Mr. Gaillard said the Asia-Pacific region was the motor of current growth. IATA predicts the region will account Collective profitability fi-gures for IATA's 229 mem-ber airlines are not due until 2010. Traffic in Europe is April, but IATA's public re- growing more slowly.

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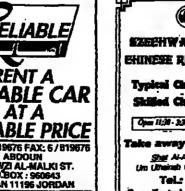


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If We Don't Have It We Will Make It









Pierce, Novotna fail to impress Graf

PARIS (Agencies) — Mary Pierce and Jana Novotna. who have been sweeping all before them in the doubles event, had their problems reaching the singles semifinals at the Paris Indoor Open on Friday.

'Houdini-style' escape in the firset round to beat Australian qualifier Rennae Stubbs, had more problems before beating experienced Judith Weisner of Austria 6-

Meanwhile Jana Novotna reached a potentially explosive showdown with her old rival Steffi Graf — but only after dropping a set to the hard-hitting Karina Habsudova of Slovakia.

The 20-year-old Canadianborn Pierce, recent winner of the Australian Open and bidding to win her first tournament in her adopted France. looked tense and unhappy when she lost concentration in the second set of her quarter-final against Weis-It was a marked contrast

with her relaxed attitude oncourt alongside Novotna as the pair swept into the semifinals of the doubles with a straight-sets win over home players Sandrine Testud and Noelle Van Lottum. "It is a lot of fun playing

the doubles with Jana and it is good for my serve and volley." said Pierce, who lost three consecutive service games in the second set against Weisner Although I didn't play so

well in the second set. I still feel confident I can win and the support of the crowd here has been fabulous." Pierce now plays Iva Maolt of Croatia who outplayed

Belgium's Sabine Appelmans 6-2. 6-4 in the day's last quarter-final. Novotna, seeded three, eventually completed a 6-3.

3-6. 6-4 win over Habsudova.

It should have been a straight-sets affair but she lost concentration after a dubious service call in the third game of the second set. double-faulted twice and had to go the distance.

The 26-year-old Czech

player cannot afford any such lapses if she is to upset the the rest of her career, is Warnecke breaks 50m breaststroke world record

GELSENKIRCHEN, Ger-

many (R) - Germany's

Mark Warnecke set a world

sbort-course swimming re-

breaststroke when he clocked

27.00 seconds at a World Cup

Warnecke beat the pre-

vious time of 27.15 set by

Dmitry Volkov of Russia in

December 1989 in Leport,

Australia's Angela Ken-

nedy set a world short-course

record for the women's 100

metres butterfly when she

Kennedy bettered the pre-

vious time of 58.91 by Mary

North-South vulnerable. South

AAK3

The hidding:
South West North East
1 • Pass 2 • Pass
4 • Pass Pass Pass

better technician.

Opening lead: Queen of ... This hand was dealt in a team

earch. As usual, victory went to the

Despite a powerful playing hand.

both Souths were content to jump to four spades when their one-spade

opening hid was raised to two. With

four losers outside the trump suit.

they reckoned it was too much to

expect partner to cover three of those and any venture beyond game involved too much of a risk.

Cinema

PHILADELPHIA

Yusra, Mahmoud Hamedieh

The Immigrant

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

clocked 58.77 seconds.

meeting Saturday.

Reunion.

Pierce, who had to stage a

three months after an injury Referring to the forthcoming showdown Novotna said: We've had many good

top-seeded Graf who is play-

ing in her first tournament in

matches and I am looking forward to it - but I'll have to be very fast iomorrow. I'm not playing my best tennis at the moment but I'll

not be holding back. You have to go for it against Stefthat's for sure Graf, who is seeded to play Pierce in Sunday's final,

reached the last four on Thursday when she beat Switzerland's 14-year-old newcomer Martina Hingis in straight-sets. Graf has played Novotna four times since the two met in the famous 1993 Wimble-

don final which ended with Novotna in tears after a three-set thriller, and each time she has won without dropping a set. Graf, who has so far shown no signs of discomfort from the bone spur injury in her

lower back she must carry for

Meagher of the United States

in Gainesville, Florida in

Meanwhile, American

world record holder Jeff

Rouse called for swimming

authorities to ban doping

recent exclusion from the Pan

Pacific Championships was

an ultimatum to the country

The Olympic 100 metres

backstroke silver medallist

backed recent calls for swim-

ming's minimum two-year

ban on drug offenders to be

doubled to four years in line

West led the queen of hearts, at-tacking declarer's only sure entry to the table. At both tables declarer called for the ace, but then their

paths diverged.

At one table declarer led a trump to the king and received the bad news. A diamond to the king lost to the ace and a club was returned. Declarer went up with the ace and exited with a heart to East's king. South won the club return and exited with a club, but the defense had an archiver. Declarer was down to

ed with a clun, out the determs had no problem. Declarer was down to nothing but Irumps, so a diamond return forced declarer to ruff and East had to score the queen of

Irumps for down one.

At the other table declarer also led a frump from dummy at trick two, but when East followed, declar-

er finessed. This was an anti-per

centage play considering the spade suit alone, but right in context of the

ultimate goal.

When the finesse won, 10 tricks

were there. But let's suppose it loses the defenders cash a heart and shift

to a club. Declarer wins, draws the last trump and leads a diamond to the queen and ace. The five of

frumps is an entry to dummy for declarer to take a club discard on the

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Rouse also said China's

January 1981.

cheats for life.

to clean up its act.

with athletics.

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especially motivated to do

Victory in the \$460,000

eveni will enable Graf io

recapture her number-one

world ranking from Arantxa

Sanchez. The Spaniard took

Sampras in, Chang out

world No. 1 Pete Sampras

advanced to the semi-finals of

the St. Judge Classic men's

tennis tournament Friday.

but second-seeded Michael

Chang was toppled by un-

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 7-

final clash with Todd Martin.

Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-7

18/10), 7-5, 6-4, and said after

that encounter that even

Sampras will look good on

the other side of the net.

going to see 130 (mph) any-

Rusedski's booming serves of

161 km/h and more. The

Canadian served 19 aces, one

"I believe in a life suspen-

sion. It should be at least four

yeas plus exclusion from the

next Olympics," Rouse said

on the eve of the World Cup

meeting. "The China ban is

an ultimatum to do some-

thing and maybe try and level

the playing field in the rest of

fic charter nations — the United States, Australia and

Canada — voted last Sunday

to exclude China from the

August Championships in

Atlanta because of recent

Lu Bin and Yang Aihua and

Chinese world champions

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PLAZA

Mahmoud Hamida — Madiha

Kamel — Hassan Al Asmar

Satan's Gate

(Arabic)

doping scandals.

Three of the four Pan Paci-

"I'm just glad I'm not

Martin said of

Sampras defeated

3-6, 6-3 to line up a semi-

Martin beat big-serving

seeded Jonathan Stark.

over the number-one slot from.

the German last week.

In Memphis.

well in Paris.

on a chance to serve for the match in the second set. In that game. Martin used two passing shots down the line to take a 15-40 lead, then

"It's faster than I've driven

a car, that's for sure." Martin

Even so. Rusedski failed

of them clocked at

passed him cross-court for the break. Martin then held serve and broke Rusedski again to lead 6-5.

After than, Rusedski said. he let himself be distracted. If I can't learn from my

mistakes. I'll nevr reach the level like Todd. Peie. and Michael. That's the difference with the top guys. You give them an inch and they'll Take a mile. Stark advanced to a semi-

final clash with Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands. Haarhuis Boetsch 6-2, 6-3.

Ivanisevic, Becker move into semis

In Milan, 10p-seeded Boris Becker showed no respect to bis doubles teammate and training pariner Guy Forget as he downed the French veteran 7-5. 6-2 in their quarterfinal match Friday at the Muratti Time indoor tennis tourna-

The 27-year-old German. ranked 3rd in the ATP tour. earned a semifinal berth against Czech Petr Korda. who was a losing finalist against Becker in the 1994 Milan indoor.

Korda advanced on a 6-1. 6-3 victory against fellow Czech Slava Dosedel at Assa-In another quarterfinal

match. Croal big server Goran Ivanisevic, the No. 2 seed, made short work of Frenchman Olivier Delaitre. Ivanisevic, who served 17

aces on his way to victory, will have a semifinal match against fifth-seeded Russian evgeny Kafelnikov, who defeated fourth-seeded Michael Stich 7-6 (7-4), 4-6.

Kafelnikov. 20. taking advantage of unforced errors by his German opponent. broke Stich three times in the third set to improve his head-

five team mates tested posi-

tive for a banned anabolic

steroid at last October's

Asian Games in Hiroshima

and have been banned for

China has asked Pan Paci-

fic organisers to reconsider

the decision. But the ruling

received support on Friday

from German swimmers and

officials who were among the

first country to announce a

boycott of a planned World

Cup meeting in China soon

after the positive tests were

Franziska Van Almsick said.

"It is a start." Germany's

two years.

announced.

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to-head record to 6-2. Becker, who's shooting for

his fifth title in Milan, displayed a wide range of winng shots - serves, volleys and backhand passing shots - to improve his head-tohead record with Forget to

Forget also served well and played aggressively. But the Frenchman suffered deci-sive breaks in the 12th game of the first set and in the fourth and eighth games of the second sei.

Becker said his break in the first set was the key to his victory.

"li was the turning point because it gave me a big boost and made it difficult for Guy to fight back." the Ger-He added that it was diffi-

cult for him to play against his doubles partner. We know each other so well, we are friends. It was a kind of match I do not like to play. ... Perhaps I know his

game better than he knows

Becker said he still was shocked by his first round defeat at the Australian Open last month.

"I really had a bad game It's difficult to explain. I'm playing far hetter now." said Becker, who won his 43rd career tournament in Marseille last Sunday.

Improving to 26-2 in this tournament. Becker tied American John McEnroe who had held the record for the most matches won in The first of Becker's two

losses was against McEnroe, on his debut in the Milan tournament in 1985. Forget failed to qualify for his first ATP semifinal since

Toulouse last October but

still could win the doubles title, in a team with Becker. Becker, who's one of the favourite player of Milan fans, attracted a big crowd for the second consecutive day at Assago.

The German has not lost a set in three rounds so far but struggled to a second-set tiebreaker against Swiss qualifier Lorenzo Manta in his first singles Wednesday. The Milan indoor awards a

top prize of \$128,000.

Okeke

banned

months

OSLO (AP) - Top-sprinter Aham Okeke, who

tested positive for banned

substances twice last year,

was banned Friday from

athletics events for a 3-

A special panel of the

Norwegian Sports Federa-

tion ruled that the 24-year-

old Okeke should serve a

3-month-and-6-day ban af-

ter testing positive for the banned substance

pseudoephedrine at the July 12 Grand Prix in

Okeke, a sophomore at

Abilene Christian Uni-

versity in Texas, was briefly

banned last year while

awaiting a hearing by a special sports court. That

forced him to miss the

European Championship at

Helsinki, Finland.

Stockholm, Sweden.

for 3

month-period.

2 jailed as fans jam hooligan hotline

court sentenced two English soccer fans to two months in jail Friday for their part in Wednesday night's riot at the Ireland-England game in Dublin.

The photograph of Stephen Sloan and Stephen Cairns attacking a steward at the game had appeared in many newspapers in Ireland and Britain. They were arrested after a tipoff from a member of the public who recognised the faces. Sloan, 21, and Kearns, 23,

botb from Birmingham pleaded guilty to causing a breach of peace and were freed on bail pending an appeal. Kearns' brother, Anthony, admitted chanting slogans and making threatening gestures and was fined 200 pounds (\$320). Meanwhile, the English

Football Association was swamped with calls from fans who rang a special telephone hotline to report the names of hooligans recognised from television coverage of the

British newspapers also tracked down many of the offenders and published their names and photographs. Many that were interviewed freely expressed pride in their actions and made remarks sympathetic with right-wing extremist groups. Some 40 people were in-

jured, including one press photographer with a fractured skull, when the violence erupted at Lansdowne Road, adding another chapter to England's sorry history of booliganism. The game was abandoned in the first Irish police said Friday

they may ask Britain to extradite the identified offenders back to Dublin. British police said they would be cooperative with any such request. The FA said it would place

the names of anyone shown to have taken part in the violence on its register of hooligans and try to prevent

An English soccer fan is released from Dublin's district

court after being fined for a disturbance in the city following

the friendly soccer match which was stopped after England's supporters turned violent (AFP photo)

during the Feb. 15 match between England and the Republic of Ireland (AFP photo)

them from getting tickets to future England away games. English ticket allocations for such games are strictly controlled by an official travel club, although that didn't stop the hooligans from buying tickets from scalpers outside the stadium Wednes-

down in Dublin happened because stadium attendants were lax in examining the specially-coded membership cards of legitimate travelling English fans. "They were's checked as

The FA said the break-

an FA spokeswoman said. "We've had a nubmer

of people calling to say their cards weren't checked." The violence began when

English fans began ripping up the stands they were sitting on and throwing the pieces onto spectators seated in the deck below. As the mess was cleaned

up, crew found racist and xenophobic literature associated with fringe far-rightist groups in Britain. News reports said some of the hooligans were members of a shadowy group called Combat 18, which has also been linked with loyalist paramilitary organisations in Northern

PHOENIX (R) - The Gol-Boston Celtics 127-121 and Seattle Supersonics, 114-109.

den State Warriors, ravaged by injuries and dissension, scored a big, big win on Friday when they beat the Western Conference-best Suns 139-128, in overtime, in Phoenix. Tim Hardaway scored five

of his 30 points in a 9-2 run to open OT as the Warriors snapped a 19-game road losing Latrell Sprewell scored six

of his 33 points in the extra session for the Warriors (15-33), who won in Phoenix (39-11) for the first time since March 21, 1987 and gave interim head coach Bob Lanier his first victory. These guys showed a lot

of character, that they can come back," said Lanier, who took over after Don Nelson resigned in the aftermath of the turmoil that re-sulted in Chris Webber's trade to Washington. "In the first half, we were a

little disorganised, guys were giving sour looks and everything, and we don't want to be that type of team," said Lanier. "At halftime, we told them whether they like it or not, we are on this journey together, and we might as well make this ride as smooth as possible."

Charles Barkley scored 38 points and Elliot Perry added 24, both season highs, for Phoenix rookie Wesley

Person made a 3-pointer with less than a second remaining 10 force overtime at 121-121. Chris Gatling had five of his season-high 26 points in overtime for Golden State, which made its first eight shots of OT and was never

"We couldn't dodge that last bullet," Barkley said. "We were very fortunate to get to overtime. I was disappointed myself because I couldn't stop Gatling when I needed to stop him." "It has not been a very

really threatened.

easy year for us, so to get a win against one of the best teams in the league is a great confidence booster." said In Los Angeles, Malik Sealy scored eight of his 28

points in the second overtime as the Clippers defeated the Tel.: 618274 · 618275

swept the season series for the first time in the francbise's 25-year bistory. The Clippers, who won at Boston on January 25, are 21-63 all-time against the Cel-

and 16 rebounds for Los Angeles, which is 4-16 in its last 20 games.

Loy Vaught bad 25 points

career-high 28 points for Bos-

In New York, Hubert Davis, starting for the injured John Starks, scored 21 points and Greg Anthony added a season-high 19 to lead the Knicks to a 100-91 victory over the Miami Heat and a sweep of their home-and-Starks suffered a partial

dislocation of his left shoulder in New York's win at Miami on Thursday. But the Knicks allowed à

25-point lead to dwindle to seven in the final period and coach Pat Riley, who collected his 200th victory with the club, was not happy. "In 15 years of coaching, it's the most unprofessional attitude of a team that I've

ever been around," Riley

Billy Owens scored 26 points for Miami.
In Portland, James Robin-

son scored 26 points to lead the Trail Blazers past the

Buck Williams added 24 points and Rod Strickland 21 for Portland, which had lost six straight against Seattle. Otis Thorpe bad seven points and three rebounds in

13 minutes off the bench in his Portland debut. Thorpe was acquired from Houston for guards Clyde Drexler and Tracy Murray Tuesday. Shawn Kemp scored 30

points for Seattle.

In Chicago, Toni Kukoc scored career-high 33 points as the Bulls built a big early lead and coasted to a 117-102 triumpb over the Detroit Pis-

Scottie Pippen, whose fiancee gave birth to the couple's first child earlier in the day, bad 13 points, eight rebounds and nine assists despite sitting out the fourth Allan Houston scored a

career-high 33 points for Detroit, which lost to Chicago for the 10th straight time. At Washington, Hakeem

Olajuwon scored 30 points and Pete Chilcuit added 18 points and 14 rebounds: to lead the Houston Rockets to their third straight win, 109-Chris Webebr had 20-92 over the bullets.

Chris Webebr had 20Chris Webebr had 20points, 15 rebounds, seven a bull of the little of the lit for Washington, which has lost eight of its last nine

Results of Friday's gemes-

91 83 92 128 (OT) 102 90 109 121 (TZ) New York Miami Orlando Philadelphia Houston Washington Golden State Phoenix Chicago 117 Detroit 110 Dallas Portland 114 Seattle 127 La Clippers Boston Minnesota

Results of Thursday's games

acramento	98	L.A. Lakers	82
Jtah	120	San Antonio	113
leveland	106	Milwankee	85
louston	105	Charlotte	89
iew York	96	Miami	87
ew Jersey	4 100	Denver	94

to announce its formation as a society whose aim is to encourage young Jordanians to take an active part in improving the environment. Companies, businessmen and interested individuals are invited to attend the society's first meeting, Today, Sunday Feb. 19th 1995 at 7:30 p.m., at the World Trade Centre's Club at Philadelphia Hotel — 10th floor. **Founders Committee**

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AL SALAM YA SALAM

SPORTS IN BRIEF

gilnjury adds to Cruyff's prol

PRD (R) — Romanian World Cup star (DRID (K) muscle in his left leg during fra his form a most for a month, making and be out of action for new foreign tales. be out of action for new foreign talent at Barrens as search for hear longing talent at Barrens helped from Barcelona's training and was helpeu lunging for a ball during a real market lunging for a ball during a real market lunging has had wein Thursday. Hagi has had problems the with abductor injuries in both & arold has fought his way back into the first a and has require any way back into the first much of the early season on the territ. dang much of the catalan derby between Barcelona and the catalan derby between between between derby between between between b of the cateman set the European Cup clash a is likely to miss the European Cup clash a is Spain on March is likely to many in Spain on March 1.

walova to run in Birmingham

(NDON (R) — Europe's leading women's serwho has broken one world index: salota water this year, will run in the B: al alhletics meeting February 25. Ic 3 minimum organisers said Privatova would friday to Coomen of the Mathematical Friday, the organisers said Privatova would be common of the Netherlands Privator Mile Cooman of the Netherlands Privator Mile Market M broke the world 50 metres record in Macrid 5 broke the world 50 metres record in Macrid 5 equilibries most successful women's index committee six European and record of 5 six European and record 5 six European and 8 six European a mine six European and two world; tantona arrives in France

MB(R) - Manchester United's confrovers

Bic Cantona arrived in France on Saturday able island of Guadeloupe, witnesses said inhean bland by his wife and son, landed at Orly and 1700 GMT and took a laxi for an mation. Cantona had been in Guzdeloure rafs decision to ban him for rest of the Engh rating a fan in a notorious incident at Cris month. In Guadeloupe, the Frenhman sed in trouble with a British television news has said Cantona kicked him in the c eptian heads African handba

GADOUGOU (R) — Egyptian Nabil S

thead president of the African Handball Co ta the group's 10th congress in the Burk 1 Ouagadougou. Delegates from abon: 34 s men Friday, named Christophe Yapo of la sin president with special responsibility for raand finance. Kitjadi Zorrino from Congo a "Yapo as secretary general while Almani makes over as treasurer. ench grounds closed after viol

MS(R) - The French Soccer Federation has

me match stadium bans to Lyon, Martigues uter incidents during second round cup may is 200. The clubs will have to play them a that anatemative venue. The federation's dimittee aspended Lyon's Gerland Stachum sh and fined the club 2,000 French francs (Smonentum missiles and injured a ball boy of on Angen to. Lyon lost 3-1. Marrigues's star med for eas match and the southern club in 18/1900. Nice received a one-match ban and (0 ims (\$400) because of the "permanent t Foilarseille's goalkeeper" during the Nice-上級 won 1-0. by Marseille.

Prican balloonist makes trans-Pac

¹ (R) — An American balloonist took lores early on Saturday in an attempt to m ld would be the first solo balloon crossing Ocean. The balloon took off on its 8,800 is Journey from Seoul's Olympic stadium before under piloted by Steve Fossett. 50. 2 510 Gingo Fosset told reporters shortly befor he aimed to reach San Francisco within four the flight was to commemorate the 50th and interation from Japanese coloniai re

^{Urakami} to work with Giants

OTTSDALE. Arizona (AFP) — Masanori M Marin as a Giants pitcher made him the only The play major league baseball, will be a gu risa francisco during spring training. Mural oaches. Murakami, who complied a 5 the Giants in 1964-65, will also be honour Masanori Murakami Night" at Candles thus 5, when the Giants host the Dodg planned to mark the 30th annivers Salami's major league debut last August 20

Mipov, Kamsky in chess final

The chess Federation (FIDE) cham after winning a semi-final on Saturday. Ind as said. Karpav beat Boris Gelfand of Beland to three in the semi-final round held at Same the south of the s Russian mene semi-mai round new a Street Russian men Indian city of Hyderabad. The sian won the ninth match in 36 moves.

S. TAXPAYER ASSISTA Panis of service specialist from the U.S.

Service specialist norman Em man from March 6 to March 9 to ass Special tax seminars will be condu

day March 6 and Tuesday March 7 from p.m. in the United States Information the United States informat the Embassy. All U.S. citizer or hon-residents, with general tax que how to file? What to file?) will be weld to file? What to file?) will be weld to file? on Massistance will be provided by

on March 6 to 9. Each taxpayer is ad Lianor of his or her last filed return and Panna Well organised to the extent panna Well organised to the extent panna well organised to the extent panna well are the income in the inco Pappearing for an appointment. The IR appearing for an appointment. the wall assist by answering questions your tax return forms. Appointments by calling 820-101, extension 2062 the lax forms and information booklets the consular section of the er

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Villagukee

San Antonio

Lakers

e theatre is closed of -

Viinne-eta

- jişdə, si games

Washington

SPORTS IN BRIEF

gi injury adds to Cruyff's problems

DRID (R) - Romanian World Cup star Gheorghe has torn a muscle in his left leg during training and he out of action for a month, making coach Johan ff's search for new foreign talent at Barcelona all the eurgent. "It's bad, I'm shattered," the midfielder said was helped from Barcelona's training ground to a by clinic after lunging for a ball during a regular team rice in Thursday. Hagi has had problems throughout career with abductor injuries in both legs. The old has fought his way back into the first team after much of the early season on the bench. Hagi will is released from the is bickly to miss the European Cup class with Paris alch which the in the catalan derby between Daluciona and Daluciona a or a disturbance in the city of atch which was stopped the livelova to run in Birmingham photo the photo the livelova to run in Birmingham

vDON (R) — Europe's leading women's sprinter Irina alova, who has broken one world indoor record and alled another this year, will run in the Birmingham mational athletics meeting February 25. In a statement Friday, the organisers said Privalova would compete Last Nellie Cooman of the Netherlands. Privalova, the mpic 100 metres bronze medallist, won the European and 200 metres titles in Helsinki last year. This month broke the world 50 metres record in Madrid on the way qualling the world 60 metres record of 6.92 seconds. man is the most successful women's indoor sprinter winning six European and two world indoor 60

intona arrives in France

RIS (R) - Manchester United's controversial soccer Eric Cantona arrived in France on Saturday from the ibbean island of Guadeloupe, witnesses said. Cantona, riot at Lansdowne Read in hund 0700 GMT and took a taxi for an unknown mutch between England and macon. Cantona had been in Guadeloupe following photo: attacking a fan in a notorious incident at Crystal Palace

attacking a fan in a notorious incident at Crystal Palace

month. In Guadeloupe, the Frenhman was then

attacking a fan in a notorious incident at Crystal Palace

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month. In Guadeloupe, the Frenhman was then

attacking a fan in a notorious incident at Crystal Palace

Staglish fans begange to has said stands they was said throwing the syptian heads African handball throwing the syptian heads African handball helps below the African Handhall Cortains search helps AGADOUGOU (R) - Egyptian Nahil Salem has AGADOUGUU (R) — Egyphan (American Handhall Confederation in the Burkina Faso 27 Trew lound for 1 at the group's 10th congress in the Burkina Faso bloom for 1 at the group's 10th congress in the Burkina raso with inner hetering on Friday, named Christophe Yapo of Ivory Coast in Briain cociate president with special responsibility for administrated some (dection and finance, Kitjadi Zortino from Congo takes over a streaments, in Yapo as secretary general while Almani Diahy of aroun called cinear takes over as treasurer. arroup called (-inea takes over as treasurer. a mich has also har-

ench grounds closed after violence

RIS (R) — The French Soccer Federation has banded one-match stadium hans to Lyon, Martigues and Nice after incidents during second round cup matches two ks ago. The clubs will have to play their next home Supersonie atch at an alternative venue. The federation's disciplinary williams mmittee suspended Lyon's Gerland Stadium for one and Rod Specifich and fined the club 2,000 French francs (\$400) after and Red Specific and fined the club 2,000 French trancs (5000) and red Specific Properties threw missiles and injured a ball boy during the missile on-Angers tie. Lyon lost 3-1. Martigues's stadium was same to meet for one march and the southern club fined 3,000 route has encs (\$600). Nice received a one-match ban and a fine of the three telegraphics (\$600) because of the "permanent bombard--- the telemon francs (\$400) because of the 'permanent bombardoff the Eart of Marseille's goalkeeper" during the Nice-Marseille in Marseille in Marseille.

And Child Dermerican balloonist makes trans-Pacific bld

- 1440 Kemp - SOUL (R) - An American halloonist took off from buth Korea early on Saturday in an attempt to make what heago. It : said would be the first solo balloon crossing of the - · · · · for Seattle actific Ocean. The halloon took off on its 8,800 km (5,599 bulls bulls; ile) journey from Seoul's Olympic stadium before dawn Bulls built: I Saturday piloted by Steve Fossett, 50, a stockbroker and coasted and Chicago. Fosset told reporters shortly before takeoff at he aimed to reach San Francisco within four days and at the flight was to commemorate the 50th anniversasry

gave birk ் வாக்கியாakami to work with Giants -. Jav. had 13 pm€

.d. and mile OTTSDALE, Arizona (AFP) — Masanori Murakami atting of the nose stint as a Giants pitcher made him the only Japanese ove to play major league haseball, will be a guest coach House a San Francisco during spring training. Murakami, 50, House III work with pitching insructor Les Moss and other than 35000 ching coaches. Murakami, who complied a 5-1 record which desire the Giants in 1964-65, will also be honoured by the In the Giants in 1964-65, will also be honoured by the honoured hy honoured hy the honoured hy honoure Washington Fair with "Masanori Murakami Night" at Candlestick Park and soord and had planned to mark the 30th anniversary of and 11 refer ike intervened.

"arpov, Kamsky in chess final ine bullets

Webeb Lew DELHI (R) — Defending world chess champion is lewest atoly Karpov will meet Gata Kamsky of the U.S. in the and five both creational Chess Federation (FIDE) championships Washington al, after winning a semi-final on Saturday, Indian news and of its last incies said. Karpav beat Boris Gelfand of Belarus hy six nes to three in the semi-final round held at Sanghi Nagar ir the southern Indian city of Hyderahad. The 43-year-Russian won the ninth match in 36 moves.

Wachter slalom

race

ARE, Sweden (R) - Austria's Anita Wachter won a women's World Cup giant slalom race Saturday, according to provisional results.

Vreni Schneider of

Switzerland was second and Deborah Compagnoni of Italy finished third. Wachter's victory provided

some consolation for her disappointment at the recent postponement of the World Championships in Sierra

After a poor start to the season, the Austrian recantured her form in the new year with two victories and a second place and would certainly have been a major force if the world event had gone ahead in Spain.

When the championship was off I went home to rest, said Wachter, "I wasn't really prepared for this race. But my first run was excellent. I'm as good as ever."

She promised to continue skiing next season, when the Spanish organisers will make a second attempt to stage the World Championships.

Her victory on Saturday lifted the Austrian to fifth in the overall World Cup standings. But with 593 points, she appears to have little chance of overhauling Katja Seizinger of Germany as she did in the World Cup finale at Are two years ago.

Seizinger, 17th on Saturday, leads overall on 893 points, ahead of Swiss Heidi Zeller-Bachler on 821 and World Cup holder Schneider

American Picabo Street, who won Friday's downhill ahead of Seizinger, is fourth

U.S. indoor athletics tour

wins giant Joyner-Kersee, Foster rally to victories

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP)
— U.S. athleties veterans Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Greg Foster pulled oft dramatic victories in the men's and women's 60m hurdles at the KeyCorp indoor athleoes meeting here on Fri-

Joyner-Kersee trailed Jamaica's Michelle Freeman through most of the women's 60m burdles, but a finishing hurst lifted her to victory in 7.93 seconds.

"I'm very pleased." Joyner-Kersec said. "The running surface was great and that was my fastest time this year. I saw Michelle Out there and said to myself, 'Come on, Jackie,' but I really didn't worry about what she was doing. I always try to concentrate on me.

Freeman was second in 8:00 and Dawn Bowles was third in 8:26.

Foster, who decided to come out of retirement to hid for a fourth outdoor world title this season, won the men's 60m hurdles in 7:57 seconds.

The excitement in that race came at the blindingly quick start, which was so fast that Mark Crear pulled up expecting a false-start call on Fos-

"They didn't call it back. so I guess it was a real good start," said Foster. "I learned my lesson years ago. Unless I hear something else, I keco Foster, who won three con-

secutive 110m hurdles world otles in 1983, 1987 and 1991. said he was using the indoor season to "gear up for the outdoors." Specifically, he wants to

regain the i 10m world crown seized hy Britain's Colin Jackson in 1993. "My goal is really to win a fourth outdoor world cham-

native, got a standing ova-In the 60m sprints, Olympic 200m champion Gwen

Torrence won the women's in 7.13 and Henry Neal won the men's in 6.56 ahead of Michael Green of Jamaica

Kevin Toth won the shot

put with the longest throw in the world this year, 21.17m. Maria Mutola of Mozambique won the women's 800m.

Mozambiquan Maria Mutola shouts for joy after winning

her 34th straight victory (AFP photo-

Ireland's Marcus O'Sula-

van won the mile in 3:59 09.

Moroccan Said Apuita

finished a disappointing fifth

American Butch Revnolds

held off Calvin Davis to win

the 400m in 48.45 seconds.

Though the time was unspec-

tacular, Reynolds, an Onio

in 4:07.24.

for her 34th straight victory. "I know that someday I am going to have to lose to somebody out right now I am winning and I am very hapby," said Mutcla, who won in . American Joetta Clark was second in 2:04.83.

China's Sun aims for more records

China's Sun Caiyan, who broke the women's indoor pole vault world record three times in less than a week, returned to Beijing to a hereine's welcome on Friday

and said she hoped to keep setting the standard. "I hope I can clear 4.20

Chinese athlete Sun Caiyun waves a bunch of flowers after

setting a new pole vanit world record (AFP photo)

metres in the near future," XINHUA news agency quoted Sun as saying. The 21-year-old Sun, from

China's booming southern province of Guangdong, cleared 4.15m at the Erfurt Indoor athletics meeong in Germany on Wednesday.

That vault broke the 4.13m record she set in Karisruhe on Sunday, completing an extraordinary series in Germany where she ser five world bests in under three

Sun, who stands 1.7m tail. set her first record with a vault of 4,10m in Sweibruecken on January 28. Six days later she managed 4.11m in Pulhein and then cleared 4.12m in Berlin on February 10, two days before competing in Karlsruhe.

Her coach, Chen Guoming, was optimistic she could smash the world record

"Hopefully, the women's pole vault may become a demonstration event in the 1996 Olympics, and a medal event in 2,000," Chen said. "I hope Sun can finish 4.30m in Atlanta."

McLaren unveil a radical new car the McLaren cars this year.

pionship," the 36-year-old

LONDON (AFP) -McLaren Mercedes unveil a radical, five wing Formula One car Friday in which Bri-ton Nigel Mansell and Mika Hakkinen of Finland will challenge for the 1995 World

Championship.
"If it goes half as well as it looks," said Mansell, "we'll be in good shape."

small extra wing protruding from the top rear end of the engine cover, as well as the usual two front wings and a double rear wing, is "pushing the regulations to the limits." Mansell commented.

The MeLaren MP 4/10 is the first car huilt to the tighter 1995 aerodynamic rules to show such a radical feature, though other teams are known to have explored the

MeLaren International Managing Direction Ron Dennis said his team believed that it was clearly inside the rules "in hlack and white, not

in any grey area."
He said McLaren was so confident of its interpretation of the rules that it had not asked the Federation Internacionale de l'Automobile (FIA) for a ruling on the

legality of the wing. Teams have been encouraged by the FIA to eheck any new features rather than risk them being banned when they arrive at the tracks.
"We have moved away

from the traditional forms of

to daw hack as much as possible of the aerodynamic downforce lost hy the new regulations." Dennis said. "We have studied the regulations very closely and we haven't gone over the limit. The major factor for us is that the car has to be legal," Dennis said.

Chief Designer Neil Oatley said the radical new wing would certainly be used in preliminary testing, but said he "could not promise that this is the definitive wing you will see all season."

The lower rear of the car is tightly shrouded by bodywork and Dennis said it would stay that way as long as possible." to avoid giving away secrets of the other critical aerodynamic area.

The British Llmor company, huilding the Mercedes FI engine, designed its new engine with a particularly narrow borrom end to fit the aerodynamics, Ilmor designer Mario Illien said. So far 12 engines have been huilt, and the team will have 22 available for the first race in Brazil March 26.

The new car will stan shake down tests at Silverstone next week, with Hakkinen driving, and then go to Estoril in Portugal the following week, where Mansell will join in the

testing.
In the past, McLaren has often only completed its new

car days before the first race. and the launch this year is unusually early for the team. Dennis attributed this to it being completely designed on computers for the first time. It will have five chassis completed by stan of the season. Oatley added.

The car was presented London's Science Museum. with the highlight on its high tech features, including the claimed use of more carbon fibre than any other racing

A few feet away, schoolchildren were looking at a 1903 stationary steam engine with a 24 foot flywheel. weighing 72 tonnes. It produced 700 horsepower, about the same as the 3 litre Mercedes engine in the McLaren.

America's Cup

Relentless Nippon beat Sydney 95

SAN DIEGO, Calnornia AFP: — láness, crew errors. and a rejentless Japanese ong, next were too much for Something to overcome brisay mas had to hight back a attention for a semiterm in the America's

After stunning France with Camsman Coun Beastiel 40 days earlier, Syd Fischer's shoestring effort was in position to move past Nippon Challenge into fourth place but lost to the Japanese by 2 minute 45 seconds after leading halfway through the race. In other races following Francis's unorted competi-

tion, oneAustralia's newest

hoat claimed its first victory hy 4 minutes over winless Spain, while Team New Zealand, unheaten except by a protest, outsided struggling France 3 by 1.30, despite doing a penalty turn at the finish for touching the final

On the defenders' course.

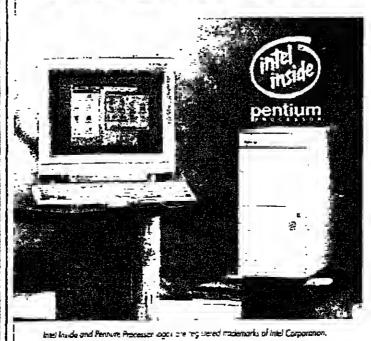
Kevin Mahaney steered PACT 95's mermaiddecorated Young America from behind on the first downwind leg to take the lead and defeat the women of America3 by 1:20.

In a welcome change, all of the races were sailed in steady breeze of 8 to 10 knots, following a rash of

over the past few weeks. Sunday 95, the only unsponsored, all-white boas in the event, led the Japanese by 41 seconds at the first mark. The lead might have been hetter, but after starting helmsman-tactician Neville Wittey forced Nippon helmsman John Cutler over the starting line early, Wittey tacked away, allowing Nippon to dip hack to the line and start only six seconds

behind. Wittey was hack aboard after a day off because of the flu, and on the first downwind run he started feeling so unwell that he was taken off

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.S. TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE

axpayer service specialist from the U.S. Internal venue Service will be at the American Embassy in man from March 6 to March 9 to assist U.S. payers.

special tax seminars will be conducted on nday March 6 and Tuesday March 7 from 6:30 -0 p.m. in the United States Information Service litorium at the Embassy. All U.S. citizens, resiits or non-residents, with general tax questions How to file? What to file?) will be welcome to ind one of those seminars. No reservation is

vidual assistance will be provided by appoint-It on March 6 to 9. Each taxpayer is advised to Dapers well organised to the extent possible in appearing for an appointment The 100 presents satire fill your tax return forms. Appointments may be political satire tell fill your tax return forms. Appointments may be tell by calling 820-101, extension 2062.

SALAM YA SALAM THE INSTRUMENT OF T

S:30 p.m. please diable in the consular section of the embassy.

Tese:vation, please 625155 p. 178.



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AGENTS & REPRESENTATIVE WORLD WIDE

GROZNY, Russia (R) — People of Grozny crept back to their homes on Saturday. many seeing for the first time the devastation wrought in the city by two months of war between the Russian army and Chechen separatists.

Russian and Chechen field commanders agreed earlier to meet in Grozny on Saturday and exchange lists of each side's prisoners. But there was no sign of the exchange taking place any-where in the Chechen capital.

The Russian-run centre of the city was quiet except for occasional detonations and bursts of small-arms fire. Some of the detonations were controlled explosions as Russian troops deactivated rockets and shells from the worst of the fighting.

"It's been pretty quiet for more than a week. There have only been sporadic shots fired from the other side." said 21-year-old Volodya, a Russian marine.

He was part of a group of marines from Vladivostok who held an ad hoc memorial ceremony for four colleagues killed on Feb. 6 near the bus station in southern Grozny a key battlefield for weeks.

They had scrawled the phrase "to the dead" on a wall. Four of the marines raised Kalashnikov rifles and fired a salute in the air.

Russia sent troops to Chechenva on Dec. II to crush the southern region's three-year-old independence

On the third day of a fragile ceasefire, crowds of civilians moved slowly through Grozny's shattered streets in brilliant sunshine. Most were ethnic Russians although a few Chechens were also visi-

Some were returning to Grozny after weeks as retheir houses or moving from burned-out homes to shelter with relatives.

Those coming back saw that whole areas between the first battleground around separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev's palace and the crucial Minutka junction further south have been laid waste.

Two middle-aged Russian sisters trudged along one street. Like the rest of the tattered crowd, they kept to the track along the middle of the road which had been cleared of rubble. The sidewalks were piled high with

This is the Soviet reality. We've been engineers for 25 years. This is all we have left," said one of the sisters, 5I-year-old Tatyana Utkina. The pair were pushing a little cart piled with sacks of clothing and books.
"Thanks a lot to Dudayev,

who's hiding his fighters in the city. If he were a real man he wouldn't be hiding behind ordinary people," she added. Mr. Dudayev is at a secret location, probably south of

Two Chechen sisters were carrying a green box once used to store ammunition as they headed from the city to the nearby town of Urus-Martan, a stronghold of Chechenya's pro-Russian

opposition.
They said the box contained the body of their father. They wanted to bury him in Urus-Martan, which has been untouched by the fighting.

Everywhere, old people were wandering the streets begging for food. The International Committee of the Red Cross was distributing truckloads of food in the city.

Old man, young girl injured by Israeli fire in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) Israeli soldiers wounded an old man and a three-yearold girl when they fired shells. and bullets at villages in southern Lebanon in revenge for two Hizbollah attacks. hospital officials said Satur-

The girl was wounded by Israeli gunfire on Habbush after a bomb attack late Friday by guerrillas which wounded two Israeli soldiers.

Early Saturday shells slammed into the old man's house in Aarabsalim after Hizbollah allies led an attack on a position of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Sojud, in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Leba-

SLA radio said the machinegun and rocket attacks on their position did not leave any casualties. But it was followed by a

violent artillery dual between the Hizbollah's paramilitary wing the Islamic Resistance and the Israeli army.

About 30 shells were rargered at SLA positions neighbouring Sojud and Ghozlan, while dozens of others fell on the Iqlim Al Tufah heights, a Hizbollah strongbold in southern Lebanon, police said. There were Meanwhile about 50 Lebanese soldiers took up

Tyre after an Israeli patrol ship fired at two fishing boats preventing their returning to For the past 10 days the Israeli navy has been stop-

positions along the coast of

ping fishermen from working at night and from venturing further than one kilometre from the coast of southern Lebanon in the daytime. About 500 fishermen

gathered at Tyre port on Saturday to protest the measures which threaten their in-

Meanwhile, the Isreali army command announced that soldier Votam Shauli, victim of a land mine explosion Friday in the "security zone," has succumbed to his

The latest casualties raised this year's toll in the south to 31 killed and 42 wounded. Among the dead were three Israelis and four SLA militia-

U.N. disarmament chief en route to Baghdad

MANAMA (Agencies) — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus has arrived in Manama for a brief stopover en route for Iraq to press for further information on Baghdad's military programme, U.N. officials said.

Mr. Ekeus. who arrived late Friday, was due to leave Bahrain on Sunday for Baghdad accompanied by three U.N. staff.

"Our main objective is to put pressure on the Iraqi side to come clean on the past programmes," said Tim Trevan, the spokesman for Mr. Ekeus, who was accompanying him on the trip. "We don't believe the lragi story that all the documents were destroyed.

The U.N. Security Council is to meet in April to decide whether the time has come to lift the embargo clamped on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The report that Mr. Ekeus will submit on the outcome of his two-to-four-day mission in Iraq could be instrumental. Before leaving New York.

Mr. Trevan had said Iraq had the equipment and experts to develop within weeks the deadly agents used in biological warfare.

There is no evidence that Iraq actually is building biological weapons, and Mr. Trevan acknowledged that the equipment also has legitimate purposes, such as for producing medicine. Mr. Ekeus heads the U.N.

Special Commission responsible for overseeing the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and monitoring future compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

The commission, wary that four years of work and a massive long-term arms monitoring system in place could be jeopardised if Iraq is thwarted too long on the sanctions, is producing its most favourable statements

"The commission believes that Iraq has to know there is a process which is moving forward, and Iraq shouldn't be allowed to conclude that there is nothing in it for them," Mr. Trevan told reporters after Mr. Ekeus ar-

rived in Bahrain. More than 110 teams of U.N. inspectors since the Gulf war have destroyed all the prohibited nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes and long-range

pected the decision was polimissiles that they identified. rically motivated. "In raising A six-month test period for comments which are more an elaborate monitoring syspolitical and partisan, the tem they set up, commanding ministry officials have raised 117 spy cameras and 20 sena suspicion that their decision sors at sites that Iraq could was taken based on political clandestinely use to produce considerations. the prohibited weapons, will be over in April. Iraq has been ordered to silence the been cooperative throughout



HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday confers medals on noted Jordanian surgeons in appreciation of their achievements in their fields of specialisation. The King conferred upon Daoud Hanania (a cardiologist) Al Nahda Medal of the First Order, npon Bassam Al Akasheh (a cardiologist) Al Nahda Medal of the Second Order and Zeid Al Kilani (a fertility specialist) Al Istikial Medal of the First Order (Petra photo)



Gunmen kill Algerian mayor; murder suspects shot dead

TUNIS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have killed five militants suspected of shooting dead a leading Berber feminist this week, the official Algerian news agency APS reported on Saturday.

The five men were killed near Tizi Ouzou, east of the capital Algiers, on Thursday. APS said, quoting security

Nabila Djahnine, 35, leader of the Berber feminist group Thighri N Tmetouth (cry of woman), was gunned down on Wednesday outside her home in Tizi Ouzou, the main city in the Berber Kabylie region.

The Berbers are the abor-iginal people of North Africa who have preserved a distinct culture in mountain regions. The Algerian newspaper Liberte reported on Saturday that gunmen had shot dead Mohammad Idrenmoiche,

mayor of the northern town

of Draa Ben Khedda, on

Fundamentalist guerrillas fighting the military-backed government are targeting more civilians to try to ensure that their actions receive publicity. The government imposes a blackout on killings

This week gunmen also kil-led the head of Algeria's al code.

Legal battle

Iranian daily

TEHRAN (AFP) — A political and legal bartle is brew-

ing between the government

and a banned newspaper rep-

resenting Islamic left-wingers

in Iran, with both sides accus-

ing the other of breaking the

The director of Jahan-e-

Islam (world of Islam), Hadi

Khamenei. on Saturday ac-

cused the government of ordering the ban for political

He said in an interview

with Salam daily that the

Culture Ministry was not

qualified to order the closure of his newspaper and called

for the issue 10 be resolved in

The government hit back

accusing Jahan-e-Islam of

"demagoguery and a con-tinuing unhealthy trend in breaking the law" and said it intended to press charges

against several journalists at

The paper, representing

Islamic leftists who have

steadily been sidelined from

power in the past few years,

was ordered to stop pub-

lishing last week after it

printed several stories critical

The government has ac-

cused the daily, run by the

brother of Iranian leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, of

insulting Islam and printing

But Hadi Khamenei said

the ministry had not been

able to give any examples.

He added the daily had

filed a suit against the deci-

sion to ban the paper and that

it intended to pursue "all

other legal channels avail-

Mr. Khamenei said he sus-

He said the ban could have

(Continued nn page 7)

able" to regain its rights.

of the government.

reasons.

court.

the paper.

looms over

national theatre, the head of a student movement, a wellknown singer-composer, and a newspaper reporter who was visiting his mother's

"The tragedy of Algerian intellectuals, who have been persecuted by successive governments for decades, has now reached genocidal proportions," Liberte wrote. Exactly as promised (by

the Islamic militants). Algerians are living an unpre-cedented bloody Ramadan," wrote the daily Al Khabar. Western sources estimate that more than 30,000 peo-

ple have been killed in Alger-ia's war since January 1992 when military-backed authorities cancelled a general election which the Islamists were posied to win. APS reported on Friday

that security forces had killed 39 Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas in a three-day sweep this week. The justice minister

announced Saturday the closing down of three specialised "terrorism and subversion"

Mohammad Teguia told the government daily Al Moudiahid: "Terrorist or subversive acts will be treated by the competent criminal or correctional courts applying of members of the security the penal procedure and pen-

to the Muslim faith.

struggle since last May.

Peace process on verge of collapse — Abdul Meguid BEIRUT (AFP) - The Midor Lebanon," Dr. Abdul Meguid warned in the inter-

dle East peace process is teetering on the edge of collapse because Israel has adopted a hard line since striking agreements with the Palestinians and Jordan, Arab League Chief Esmat Abdul Meguid has warned.

backed legislative power, the

National Transitional Coun-

cil. had agreed on "clemency

measures" for repenting fun-

damentalists, including the

withdrawal of the death

penalty for fundamentalists

Thousands of mourners

flocked Friday to Tlemcen

for the funeral of the mur-

dered musician Baba

Ahmad, better known by his

stage name "Rachid," who

was killed Thursday in the

Dozens of artists and

politicians joined in as mour-

ners filed through Rachid's

home town for the burial of

ing promoters of Rai music

that started up in the late

armed men Thursday close to

Oran, home of the popular

Rai music frowned on by

The security forces had no information on the shooting

Meanwhile, the French au-

thorities in Paris said they

had given political asylum to

an Algerian lawyer and a

magistrate who have come

under attack from both the

Algerian authorities and the

fundamentalists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JAKARTA (AFP) - Indonesia will ask Saudi Arabia for a

40,000-person increase in its quota for Haj pilgrims this

year in the face of a surge in applications to more than

230,000, a newspaper report said here Saturday. The Jakarta Post daily said Minister for Religious Affairs

Tarmizi Taher left for Saudi Arabia Friday to request for

the increase. "We will try to convince the Saudi govern-

ment to accept thousands of people now on the waiting

list." Mr. Tarmizi was quoted as saying before leaving.

However. I'm not going to engage in wishful thinking, so

that the prospective pilgrims won't have any false hopes,"

he added. Mr. Tarmizi said some 240.000 Indonesians

originally registered for the Haj pilgrimage this year, but

about 10,000 backed out amid reports they would be put on

the waiting list. The Saudi government has limited Indonesian pilgrims to only 192,000 this year. The Religious

Affairs Department handles pilgrimages in Indonesia, where around 90 per cent of the 190 million people adhere

58 killed in Kurdish clashes in north Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — At least 58 people have been killed in

the latest clashes between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported

Saturday. More than 30 people were also injured in an attack by the Hizbollah group in the Kurdish-held region

and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on the forces

of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) around the town

of Rawanduz. A PUK commander, Aziz Faghiani, was

among the dead. IRNA said, without giving casualty figures for the other groups which have besieged the town for the past two weeks. The agency, quoting a Hizbollah

spokesman, said the KDP and pro-Iranian Hizbollah had

captured strategic heights around Rawanduz in northeast-

ern Iraq. IRNA said Friday that the fighting had escalated

around the town and that the situation ws turning critical

for residents of Rawanduz. The PUK and KDP, which

control northern Iraq under a Western security umbrella in

defiance of Baghdad, have been locked in a deadly power

region at a cost of 50 million Egyptian pounds (\$15

million). Under the plan, four square kilomettes would

be cleared of litter and stones while the department's offices

will be moved and the site reserved for camels and horses.

Mr. Hawass said. He said the work would take several

months to complete and would also include building a wall

to separate the neighbouring village of Nazalat Al Samman

from the site to stop the spread of urbanisation. Dozens of

"hovels built illegally on the plateau" will also be pulled

down. Last year Egypt was forced to suspend work on a

motorway near the site following protests from the U.N.

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UN-

ESCO). A new route has now been chosen to avoid the

Indonesia seeks higher Haj quota

Islamic fundamentalists.

Rachid was shot dead by

music shop he owned in

the musician, one of the lead-

western city of Oran.

who repented.

The secretary general told AFP that the peace process was in "real danger" and added, "we have to make progress fast otherwise things are going to deteriorate and will place all the parties in a worse situation.

The former Egyptian fore-ign minister blamed Israel for taking a tougher stand and asked: "Who has changed? The Arabs or the Israelis? We, the Arabs, haven't

changed."
"The Israelis have done a
U-turn and think that because they have signed an accord with the Palestinians in Oslo and then with the Jordanians that they can afford the luxury of sitting

Under accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian self-rule-was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May. But talks on extending autonomy on the West Bank have since been deadlocked amid a series of anti-Israeli attacks.

peace treaty in October ending 46 years of hostilities. But the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese track of the peace process has made little progress since its launch at the October 1991 Madrid peace

conference. Two Arab partners have moved quicker than the others, but there will never view in French, conducted late Friday in the Lebanese capital. He also said that a war of

words between Israel and Egypt, which made peace in 1979, over the Jewish state's nuclear programme was a "real crisis. Egypt, with the backing of the 22 Arab League mem-

bers, is refusing to renew its signature on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April in New York if Israel does not join.

But Israel has refused, citing special security concerns, and will not confirm Western reports that it possesses around 200 nuclear war-'Against whom in the re-

gion does Israel want nuclear security? Against Iran. That's just an excuse," Mr. Abdul Meguid charged, adding that the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix, had said Iran did not possess the means of acquiring a nuclear capacity.

He also warned Israel not to fall into the trap of think-

ing "they can threaten Egypt. This war of words will only encourage radicalism" in the region.
Turning to the unrest in Algeria, Dr. Abdul Meguid

conflict the Arab League had not become involved although it should be doing He was in contact with

Algerian leaders and would be ready to help if asked. What is taking place in Algeria is very dramatic, and not something that the Muslim world can ever accept," be total peace without Syria said the Arab League chief.

Russia to build 3 more nuclear reactors for Iran

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia is about to sign an agreement to help build three nuclear power reactors for Iran, in addition to another reactor currently being built there, the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry said here Saturday. A ministry spokesman told the news agency Interfax that the three reactors - a light water VVER-100 reactor and two VVER-440 reactors would be built at an Iranian nuclear plant at the southern Gulf town of Bushehr.

The spokesman added that Russia would also build a desalting installation with a nuclear reactor for Iran, and help to train Iranian nuclear specialists.

Russia recently signed a contract to complete a halffinished nuclear reactor at Bushehr on which German before the Islamic revolution in 1979, and to provide enriched uranium needed to run

Interfax quoted another

ministry official as denying

that Iran could use the

Russian-built reactors to pro-

duce weapons-grade nuclear materials. He said that the Bushehr reactors would be built under supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agencv. and that they were open

to international control since Iran had signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation reaty. A Russian government ecological safety official, Aleksei Yablokov, had warned that Iran could use the Russian-made reactors to

build a nuclear bomb.

Experimental arms will create enmity — Somali leader

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A

arriving here around the beginning of March, will be equipped with sticky foam shots fired from guns as "high-tech lassons." barrier foam laced with teargas, wooden and rubber pellets instead of bullets.

The arsenal is designed to provide protection without spilling blood.

The U.S. Marines will

"We don't know how to

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton eulogise **Fulbright** WASHINGTON (AFP)

Former Senator William

bright was eulogised by onetime apprentice, Pn dent Bill Clinton, who the country was in his a for speaking out against Vietnam War. "In the w he did, the words he sp and the life he lived. Fulbright stood against 20th century's most destrictive forces and fought to at ance its brightest hopes. N Clinton said. Mr. Clinton of ivered the eulogy at a men rial at the National Cather attended by family a friends of the former Ariassas senator, who died stroke last week at age 89. former chairman of the Se ate Foreign Relations Co. mittee. Sen. Fulbright wirtually alone in Congress challening then Preside Lyndon Johnson's course military escalation in Vie nam in the mid 1960s. Se Fulbright also is known for the international scholarsh programme that bears h name and which be estal total of the two countries, a lished in 1946. Mr. Clinton Indiana official saio Sun-

Kohi faces meniscus operation

BONN (AFP) — Germa Chancellor Helmut Kohl wi Shin Beth gets 'very soon" undergo a carti age operation on his rightew chief knee which he has been putting off for weeks, depid HAVIV (AFP) — Prime government spokesman Havinista Yitznak Rabin bert Schmuelling said Frien apparted a specialist on Jew-

Bonn carneval. The five (AVA (R) — Yasser Arafestive period usually bring government business to an

U.K. royal policeman sues over palace fall

LONDON (R) — A policy man who fell while on guar duty at Windsor Castle sueing the queen for £250, (\$394,600) compensation British newspaper said Sam day. Former policeman ! ger Mathastein, 45, was b rolling the castle at m when he fell into a hole! by workmen who had moved a flagstone to grappipes beneath, the Sun sum. Mr. Mathastein severely gured his foot and should He was dismissed ten mont later when it became dear was unable to return to because of his injuries. If newspaper said Mr. Materia issued a bigh court against Britain's top sofficial, Attorney General Nicholas Lyell, since queen cannot be sued dist ly. But she would be pected to pay if Mr. Matherin, who worked for 11 years

wins his case. "Because of

injury, I'm no longer in job. I decided to bring a c

quoted a spokesman for t

attorney general's office saying they were looking in the case.

The EU... here

yesterday,

gone today?

plans new talks

PARIS (AFP) — Algerian secular and fundamentalist opposition groups who propsed a peace plan last month in Rome are planning another meeting, this time in Algeria, one of the signatoris said Sunday. Abdullah Islamic Rennaissance Movement, told the aggregator Algeria in lold the newspaper Al at the palace, a royal redence to the west of London Hayar that the meeting would be organised "in as short a ime as possible. against the queen to compa sate for that," Mr. Mathe tein told the paper. The S

Assad holding out against peac

ERUT (AFP) — Syrian President Halez Al A ETRUT (AFP) — syriam creaseent Mater Al a semined to the peace process, Israel's Foreign period in an interview published Sunday. The shared and abandoned that option. He a geht a war and abandoned this option. He a geht a war and abandoned this option. ingle 3 war and accurate the ingle option. He is at a half peace." A solid and half havail. "He is at a half peace." was but has not yet were minisen to peace. A was but has not yet were minisen to peace. A was said all was said a half-way sage with daily a the Israeli minisee. " the Israeli minister said. "An a bachetor. The foliations its position on a to tiolan. We have never done and was a folial. We are not demanding that he change it is said. We are not demanding that he change is said. We are not demanding that he change is said. We are not demanding that he added. In negotiations there are always the added. In negotiations there are always that a third positions. but he added. In negotiations there are always and he he added. That a third position axine spaces requires that a third position axine spaces. The Syrian government daily issued mentions. The Syrian government daily "ist mediate Middle East peace process was "frozen"

Volume 19 Number 5849

Interior Ministry official retired

AMMAN (J.T.) The
Chinel on Sunday decided
Chinel on Sunday of Interior
profite Ministry of Interior
profite Cheneral Khalls General Khalil Greary General Monday. informed sources told the loan Times. The sources suithid Governor Favez Al was upped to replace decided to retire Gov-m Favez Al Khasawneh.

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By a Jo Staff

Hunter sparks

alert on border MMAN (AFP) — A hunter lorden sparked an alert the fired in the direction disaeli soldiers along the

Mr. Schmuelling did not co in rumists to head the firm a report in the Mue Gard Security Service or chner Merkur daily, whi Sim Ben on Sunday, offisaid German national s cits and The 44 year-old, said German naucual and the second second by the desired only by team doctor Ernst-Otl who to identified only by Muchch would operate (#: wicham: "K" Mr. Kohl next Wednesday wered from deputy of Thursday in Munich. He chai internal intelligence plained the exact date was intended intelligence being kept secret to ward accordingly against subtoo much public interest ward was been gainst subtoo much public interest ward was been gainst subtoo much public interest was been gainst subtoo much public interest was a subtoo

however, when he recomparticipants in the tradition

hitsch faction warned

on Sunday against ten who extest activists. le lach Hawks military क्षा answering a stateid issed by Hamas on hich threatened to and if Mr. Arafat's securincs went on arresting activists in the Manian-ruled Gaza Strip. amemen by the Hawks and Izzeddin Al Qassam, to internal violence and sedition as a weapon... the warn you, be careful, be careful Qassam brigades about using this method."

Algerian opposition

THE AGRICULTURAL MATTER ASSOCIATIO

The general assembly of the Agricultura: Ma Association met on Saturday 18:02/95 to or The Adriculture Management The Agriculture Minister's lack of response request by our association for an audience to him the adverse effects of his decision to Fix agricultural materials, hopefully before com phobes rejoice the European be in conflict with the revered directions of the rightly guided go be in this regard. This regretiable decision Union (EU) is no more...

least according to a statement in French issued by the European Commission. The sme development on emergency aid for the liberalisation of that private sections of the former Soviet Republic of the former Soviet Republic of the European Union had development.

Georgia stated blumby the Georgia stated blumby the European Union had development.

Georgia stated blumby the Georgia satisfactory the former soviet Republic of the Services and products offered by the integrated. The Georgia satisfactory service farm credit...etc. The companies of the European Inc... and products is proportionately sme from the European Inc... and products is proportionately sme from the European Inc... and production cost. Yet their value to the Collapse of the Society of the Collapse of the Society of the Society of the Society of the Society of the Collapse of the Society of the

The services and products offered by the services and products offered by the services and products offered by the services are products of the farmer, advance to the farmer, advance the

to the collapse of the Social assembly consequently decided to the collapse of the collapse of

Egypt to spend \$15 million to protect pyramids U.S. decision to equip its troops in Mogadishu with ex-CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is to spend SI5 million cleaning up perimental crowd-control page 2). The Pentagon justified the and protecting the ancient pyramids of Giza, the last of the weapons will create "bitter enmity," a powerful Somali seven wonders of the world to survive, an official said Saturday. Head of Giza's antiquities department Zahi faction leader warned Satur-Hawass said a plan was launched this week to protect the pyramids plateau and serve the unique character of the

The American soldiers,

come ashore on Mogadishu's beaches with Italian troops

under Operation Shield to protect the retreat of the last U.N. soldiers in Somalia (see

use of the new weapons as necessary for the mission to get U.N. forces and equip-ment out with no loss of life. But Mohammad Qanyare

Afrah, chairman of the United Somali Congress and a close ally of south Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed warned: "We will use whatever weapons we have against the Americans if it becomes necessary."

remove this gel," he said. "In my view It is very dangerous.

who worked for the senant is ionianian soldiers disco-while a student at George and that a man who fired a AMMAN --King Hussei that the Oct. town University, recalled with shot Saturday was a nessing Sen. Fulbright sair looking for boars in with Israel anguish "in the great struggl to horder region, said the over Vietnam." We wi find who asked not to be never forget the debt that mend. An Israeli army Jordan's stanc Nation, saying dom has alwa owe him and the debt the outsman said earlier that country owes him," Mr. Cim see and Jordanian troops the Arab Wor in all its battle al searched both sides of sacrifices for is border after the scare "It is strat santay. Jordanian soldiers have the impo and a hunting rifle after a peace process gach but the hunter dan has been seed, the spokesman said. (the Arab N Hussein said i

2 civi

3 othe killed Israel MARJAYOU Israeli warpiane blasted resistan

multiple assaults on an Israeli-ou The heavies: months killed t civilians, two g an Israeli-affili Lebanon Army wounded five c

South Lebason

security sources SLA milinaman ertier clashes di White clouds gulfed the strick thousands of T dled in baseme the fighting. Israeli reprisa lage of Kfa where a 37-ve an 18-year-old

> and an 11-ye A total of 2 vehicles susta Kfar Roums tiyeh, said r The guerril

killed, said

soorces. Amo

ed were two

Israeli-occu zone" was th cent months power and : tions struck. Israei's ma including the thousands of

lobbed on sor villages in 18 hours, raised major showd flaring Ara front.